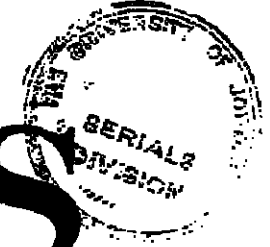


Pressure tells
n final hole
r Americans



Ex-prime ministers shatter Tory unity

Heath rages at Thatcher speech on EC

By NICHOLAS WOOD IN LONDON AND CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

TWO former prime ministers last night destroyed the veneer of Conservative unity over Europe that had been carefully crafted over the previous 24 hours.

In New York, Margaret Thatcher declared that the risks to British sovereignty of a federal Europe were so great that she could no longer hold her tongue in public and made clear her continued opposition to a single currency. In London, Edward Heath accused her of being a liar, out of touch and of causing John Major's problems.

While Mr Major and Douglas Hurd reiterated their determination not to accept a European superstate and Tory MPs were uniting thankfully in condemnation of Jacques Delors' federalist ambitions, Mr Heath defended the European Commission and denounced Mrs Thatcher.

His contemptuous dismissal of the policies and character of his successor as prime minister will be regarded by

many Conservative MPs as little more than the final outpouring of years of pent-up bitterness. However, the venomous nature of Mr Heath's diatribe will not be welcomed by Mr Major and party managers as they try to maintain a fragile truce over Europe.

Mr Heath was responding to a speech in New York in which Mrs Thatcher proposed the creation of an Atlantic economic community embracing the whole of Europe and North America, to promote free trade and counter the effects of a protectionist European superstate that she said was the goal of some EC members. It would amount to the economic underpinning of Nato, "and make a great deal more sense than the various half-baked schemes for giving a defence identity to the European Community".

She made no bones about her opposition to a single currency, "which is not necessary to go to a single market at all". There was great danger, she said, that control might go to a group of people who are not democratically accountable in any way.

"That is one thing we say very firmly. We will not have a single currency imposed upon us. For 700 years, our parliament has had control over our currency, our economic policy, our expenditure, our taxation. Our executive responds directly to our people. It is the best system and most of us think it should be kept for the next 700 years."

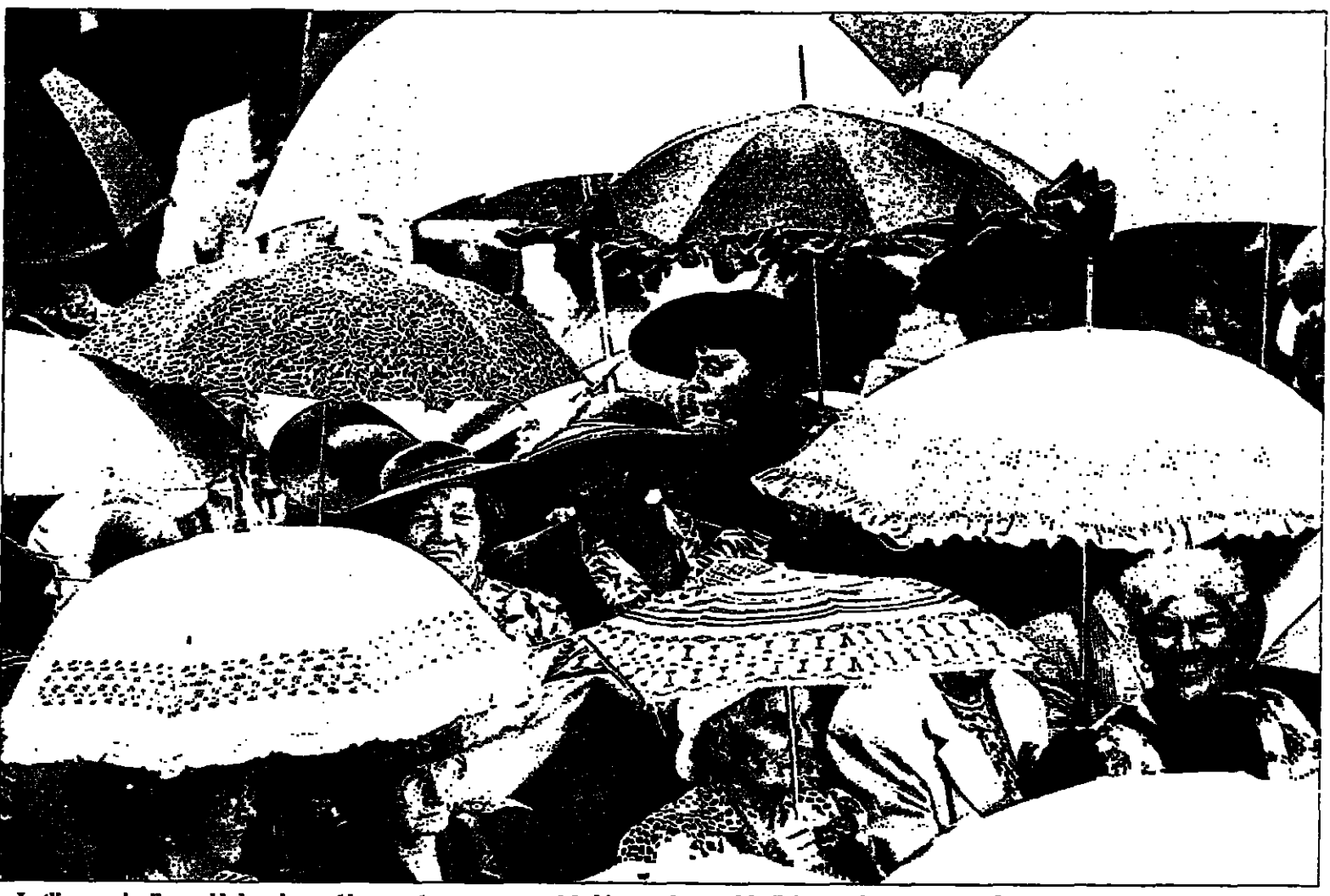
Afterwards, in an interview with *Channel 4 News*, Mr Heath accused Mrs Thatcher of being ignorant and of telling lies. He wondered how the Americans could be expected to "swallow" the idea that a single currency was unworkable when they had a single currency for a country of 300 million people.

Mrs Thatcher had described the European Commission as an autocratic body acting on its own. "It does nothing of

the sort. It can only take decisions if prime ministers and presidents agree on those decisions. These are blatant falsehoods. The history she purports to put forward is again entirely false about nationalism and the damage it has done. Look at the United States. It is full of different nationalities and they don't all speak English."

He went on: "She also is so ignorant. She does realise we have a European culture as well as individual national aspects. Beethoven is European. Goethe is European. Michelangelo is European. She does not realise she was pushed so unceremoniously out of Number Ten because of what she said about Europe and the party would not stand for it."

"She goes on talking about the results of freedom in this country. She shows no appreciation of the ghastly legacy she has left her successor. Mrs Thatcher is entirely out of touch with events in this country. She does not realise the situation which John Major is having to deal with. She does not realise she was the cause of it. She does not realise that in Europe she is regarded not only as irresponsible but entirely not to be considered at all."



Jostling umbrellas added colour yesterday to the first day of Royal Ascot, where attendance dropped 14 per cent, a result of rain and recession. The crowd cheered Lester Piggott's win on Saddlers' Hall in the King Edward VII Stakes; but mastery showers presented fashion-conscious racegoers with a tricky challenge (Liz Smith writes). Trenchcoats were shrugged on over chiffon and flowery silk suits were cocooned in shawls. The chic, however, did not appear to shiver with the rest. The Princess of Wales, who owned up years ago to wearing thermal underwear beneath formal finery, looked serenely snug in a tailored white ottoman coatdress by Catherine Walker, worn with black wide-brimmed hat and gloves. The Queen wore a pink shantung jacket and navy and pink rosebud silk dress by Hardy Amies, with a pink straw hat. The Queen Mother, was in apricot silk with matching hat. Piggott's magic, page 40

Youths flout Christian mores

A church survey shows that one in three youths believe it moral to have sex before marriage. Ruth Gledhill reports

Nearly one-third of the members of church youth groups believe it morally acceptable to have sex before marriage, according to a report on young people's relationships. More than one in 20 of those under 16, the age of consent, claimed to have had sexual intercourse.

Researchers were particularly concerned because most of these people were regular churchgoers. They are calling for churches to give more guidance to young people on sexual issues.

In a survey of more than 1,700 young people, of whom more than 80 per cent were committed Christians, nearly one-fifth of those who were unmarried claimed to have had a sexual partner. Up to 18 per cent were not sure about the morality of intimate acts.

Although 57 per cent of youths believed sexual intercourse between unmarried



Daggers drawn: Mr Heath on Channel 4 last night

Kinnock takes on Liverpool hard left

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock will today visit Liverpool to support his party councillors in their battle with Militant-backed rebels and council workers who have threatened to stop burying the dead next week.

Only hours before the city council meets to discuss plans to axe 1,000 jobs, the Labour leader will fly in to campaign against Militant in the Walton by-election and to back his candidate, Peter Kilfoyle, and the official Labour councillors. This afternoon, they will unite with the Liberal Democrats to vote for the scrapping of the council's refuse service and award a seven-year contract to a French-owned company offering to take the job over for less than half the price.

Mr Kinnock's high-profile visit on the day of the council meeting underlines the importance the Labour leadership attaches to defeating the Militant-backed Broad Left's candidate, Lesley Mahmood. By tackling the rebels head-on he will attempt to harden the resolve of the official Labour group in the face of Militant provocation. The council union convenor, Ian Lowes, who is a Militant supporter, has said he would pull the city's gravediggers and crematorium workers out on strike if compulsory redundancy notices were not lifted.

As thousands of council workers prepare to march on the town hall, Mr Kinnock is planning to declare that the council is putting the interests of the people of Liverpool first. He will also emphasise Labour's backing for the council and Mr Kilfoyle.

Strike threat, page 7

Pavlov leads challenge to rule Soviet Union

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A POWERFUL alliance of Soviet central institutions and conservative politicians was last night openly challenging President Gorbachev for the right to rule the Soviet Union.

The challengers are led by the prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, who has the backing of the KGB, the defence and interior ministries, senior ministers and the conservative majority in the Soviet parliament. They are seeking either to shift the balance of power between the presidency and the government or to remove the president altogether. Mr Pavlov wants the right to initiate legislation, run a Soviet tax inspectorate and control the banking system.

His move, described by reformist deputies as an attempted coup, came as Mr Gorbachev announced a provisional agreement with nine republican leaders on a new union treaty. This is believed to give the republics extensive economic and political powers that could result in the demise of most central ministries and the Soviet parliament.

The draft treaty has been passed to the republic parliaments for discussion and approval, and while the central parliament will also discuss the treaty, its role will now be minimal, according to the presidential adviser, Grigori Yavlinsky. "No one will be sidelined," he said. "But the decisive word will

rest with the republics which form the new union."

The decision to send the treaty to the republics, coupled with Boris Yeltsin's triumph in the Russian presidential election, is believed to have spurred the conservatives into action. On Monday, the prime minister asked parliament for extra powers to deal with the country's economic crisis, including the right to mobilise men and machinery for the harvest. He implied that Mr Gorbachev was too busy to make such decisions. Yesterday, a draft resolution put to parliament indicated that Mr Pavlov's demands went further. If granted, the central government would have a degree of control that would render much of the republics' imminent autonomy void.

During a heated debate, it emerged that the heads of the country's three most influential institutions - the defence ministry, the interior ministry and the KGB - had all backed Mr Pavlov's call for extra powers during a private parliamentary session on Monday. According to some of those present, they had scorned the fruits of perestroika as "cold, hunger and inadequate defence". They were said to have described the policy of "reasonable sufficiency" in defence as an attempt to cover up the Soviet Union's loss of its superpower

FO 'lost chance to aid Waite'

By DAVID WATTS AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Foreign Office's refusal to respond to a Libyan government letter offering better relations has reportedly torpedoed a Libyan promise to help with the release of British hostages.

The bearer of the letter, Sir Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, said last night he was at a loss to understand the Foreign Office's "appalling lack of courtesy" and the failure to exploit what he said were specific Libyan commitments on terrorism.

It is understood that the letter, which was read and approved by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, made specific reference to the British hostages. Libyan influence was instrumental in the release of some Belgian hostages in

Continued on page 20, col 4

Baker support, page 10

Lloyd's rescue ditched

THE government is to drop plans to rescue Lloyd's underwriting names, facing losses of up to £100,000, in the face of a threatened backbench revolt (Nicholas Wood writes).

Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, signalled a climbdown after criticism from Tory MPs opposed to bailing out the rich. Labour made clear it would have nothing to do with a rescue operation.

The names include nearly 60 Tory MPs and ministers. Mr Maude told the standing committee on the finance bill that the government made no promises to Lloyd's. He maintained that ministers were not convinced that any of the suggested tax breaks was an answer to the long-term problems facing the syndicates making up Lloyd's.

Full report, page 20

ITN's irreplaceable Sir Alastair bows out

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR Alastair Burnet, whose retirement from Independent Television News was announced yesterday, will not be replaced as senior newscaster. "There's no need to have a senior presenter, so there won't be any internal jockeying to take over his title when he goes," a spokesman said.

ITN denied reports that it would attempt to poach the BBC's Michael Buerk or woo back Martyn Lewis or Peter Sissons. Stewart Purvis, ITN's editor-in-chief, said no changes to the presentation or format of *News at Ten* were being planned. The existing news team of Trevor McDonald, Julia Somerville and Alastair Stewart, backed by Fiona Armstrong, will continue to present the flagship programme.

"We have a very strong team of

newscasters who will carry on the *News at Ten* tradition of quality news presentation. They have the right blend of complementary strengths," Mr Purvis said. Sir Alastair, who started *News at Ten* 24 years ago, is to retire at the end of August. His resignation came as ITN's directors approved a cost-cutting budget involving up to 150 job losses. There has been speculation for more than a year that he was on the verge of walking out or being pushed out before his three-year contract ends in 1993.

He said yesterday that he had decided to resign last March, but did not elaborate on his reasons. Friends say he was fed up with the bickering, chaos and turmoil that has characterised ITN during a much-publicised financial crisis. ITN says he had originally wanted to stay on and present the next general election, but changed his mind as the

prospect of an early election receded. However, Sir Alastair will be back in front of the ITN cameras as a political expert on general election night.

Sir David Nicholas, chairman and former chief executive of ITN, also asked the board on Monday to allow him to retire in October, four months earlier than planned. Sir David, a close friend of Sir Alastair who joined ITN in 1960 before becoming editor and chief executive in 1977, had been replaced in February as chief executive by Bob Phillips, a former managing director of both Central Television and Carlton Communications.

Richard Dunn, chief executive of Thames Television and deputy chairman of ITN, is tipped as Sir David's most likely successor as chairman.

The final break, page 14



Burnet: back for general election coverage

TODAY IN THE TIMES

ETIQUETTE

The joy of winning at a school sports day can turn to childish tears if parents find out. do, say or even think the wrong things Page 12

MUSIC

Mischa Maisky once took an 18 month break from his cello studies - to shovel cement in a Soviet hard labour camp Page 13

POLITICS

Margaret Thatcher is steadfast in her support for Britain retaining its sovereignty in Europe - and has history on her side Page 14

INSIDE

Output falls
Industrial output tumbled a provisional 2.7 per cent in April, suggesting that the end of the recession is not yet in sight. Page 21

Premiums rise
Motor and household insurance premiums are set to rise by up to 20 per cent next year. Page 2

Police anger
Police have criticised a decision to release a man jailed for his role in the murder of three officers. Page 3

Difficult draw
Stefan Edberg, the defending Wimbledon men's singles champion, begins the defence of his title against Marc Rosset, of Switzerland Page 40

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Backache sufferers turn to alternative treatments for relief

BACKACHE is undoubtedly a pain for those who suffer, but the pursuit of a cure, or at the least some respite from the discomfort, has prompted the largest growth within the medical industry outside the health service.

With more than 85,000 people likely to be off work today with debilitating back pain, the cost to the nation, about £4.5 billion a year, is well documented. The chances of the cause of a back pain being properly diagnosed is low at around 20 per cent and the treatments offered by GPs ranging from the cure-all painkiller, through total rest to vigorous exercise programmes or surgery, often provide little help.

The Prince of Wales, for example, has been told that his degenerative disc problem. The prince has cancelled engagements for at

least a fortnight. It is no surprise that sufferers are turning to increasing numbers to alternative treatments, and doing so very often at the suggestion, and with the consent, of their GP.

Referral to a consultant in orthopaedics or a physiotherapist is available through the health service, but other forms of treatment such as chiropractic, osteopathy and acupuncture remain on the fringe of the medical establishment. Yet more than half those seeking alternative help complain of a back problem.

Many doctors acknowledge the success of such treatments and urge their patients to use them. Some private medical insurance companies will pay for such treatments, but the growth is largely prompted by those willing to pay from their own pocket. Bupa says it does not know the

The Prince of Wales must rest or face surgery for his spine injury. About 85,000 people will be off work today with acute back pain. Lin Jenkins reports on the pursuit of a cure for a condition that costs the country £4.5 billion a year

amount it pays in treating back pain, but acknowledges that the use of acupuncturists, osteopaths and chiropractors has increased. "The rule is that these sort of treatments have to be recommended by a relevant and recognised specialist and carried out under his supervision," Bupa said. Other insurers have differing guidelines, but few exclude fringe treatments completely.

Graham Mason, for the General Council and Register of Osteopaths, who practices in Kent, believes private medical

cover pays for between 5 and 10 per cent of all work by osteopaths. "About 50 per cent of all our work is back problems according to our last survey and half of these have some related pain in the leg. The next most common complaint is the neck."

The 1,500 names on the register are expected to double within the next decade, with a higher increase in the number of medically qualified people completing their training. The London College of Osteopathic Medicine, one of four training

centres, offers a 13-month course to those already medically qualified as an alternative to the usual four-year training, and 90 such people have so far gone on to practice.

Fees vary greatly from £15 a half-hour session to £40 or more in central London and the treatment can be without end. Mr Mason says patients fall into three categories: the first having a one off traumatic injury which can often be dealt with easily; the second with acute pain after a history of backache who can be

treated in a dozen sessions; and the third who have a chronic problem and realise they may need a monthly session to enjoy a normal life and quite often the golf course, too.

The Medical Research Council's epidemiology and medical care unit at Northwick Park Hospital, west London, ran a study which concluded that chiropractic was more successful in treating back pain than traditional hospital methods. The fringe groups would like closer links with GPs, especially now that many control their own budgets and act as sub-contractors are able to treat patients and also refer back those who require different attention.

Yet the British Medical Association remains sceptical. "We are very impressed by alternative therapists, but the problem is that

anyone can set up without being properly qualified or monitored. You would not get shut down until you had killed a few people. Osteopaths have been excellent in addressing this problem, but other therapies are untried and some are unhelpful," Carmel Turner, for the association, said. Private Patient Plan, the country's second largest medical insurers who cover over one and a half million people, will pay for several alternative treatments, depending upon the policy, if the patient is referred by a GP or consultant. These include homeopathy, chiropractic, osteopathy, acupuncture and orthopaedic-manipulative medicine, but only where the practitioner has both applied to be on the company's list and accepted.

Leading article, page 15

Aids may become main health threat for middle aged

By TIM MILES

RISEING death rates among the young and those in early middle age demonstrate the limits of public health campaigns since the second world war, medical statisticians say today. If trends continue, middle age will become an increasingly dangerous time.

Fewer men and women aged 15 to 44 are dying from heart attacks and cancer. Nevertheless, the death rate for the group as a whole is rising, particularly for those aged 15 to 39, while the rate for all other age groups is declining.

For those approaching early middle age, general improvements in health are outweighed by deaths from other diseases linked to smoking

and drinking, such as bronchitis or liver disease. Also increasing are deaths from suicide or in incidents leading to open verdicts at inquests.

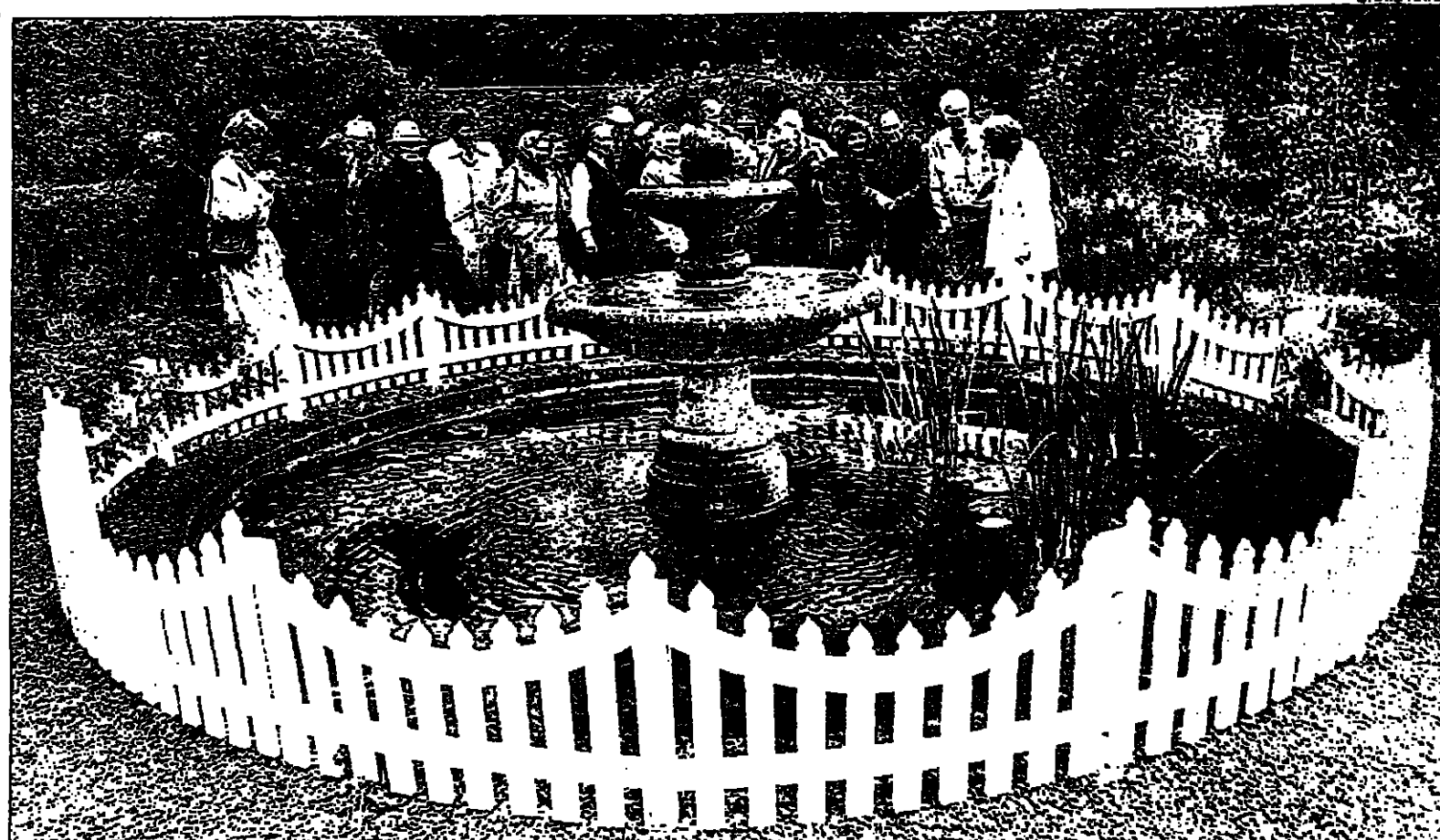
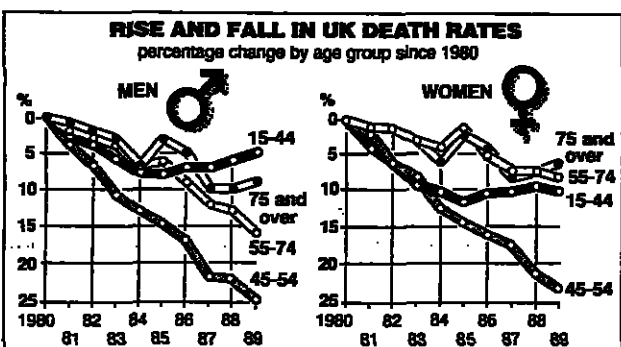
At the same time, the number dying from Aids is growing fast, and may become the main health threat for the middle aged. Many more people may already be dying from the disease than are recorded on death certificates.

Statisticians at the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) have traced the growing hazards of being young and approaching middle-aged since the mid-1980s, when people aged 15 to 44 first began to buck the century-old trend of generally improving health. In *Population Trends*,

published today, Karen Dunnell, assistant chief medical statistician, shows that deaths in the 15 to 44 age range have been rising since 1985. Taking the years 1984 to 1986 together as a base, she shows that if mortality rates had stayed constant for 15 to 44-year olds, 25,543 men should have died between 1987 and 1989. In fact, 647 more men died.

For men, within the overall increase in deaths between the two periods, there were fewer deaths from cancer, heart disease, strokes and accidents. However, those were outweighed by an increase in deaths from respiratory disease, disorders of the digestive system and much bigger increases in deaths from suicide, "open verdict" deaths and from Aids, which represents almost three quarters of the deaths from "other causes".

Miss Dunnell says recent work at the OPCS has suggested that for every Aids death recorded as such, two make no reference to the disease on a death certificate. More men are also dying from suicide in every age group up to 39, apart from the ages 25 to 29.



Royal circle: a party of garden enthusiasts braving the damp weather to gather round a pond in the walled garden at Highgrove House, the Prince of Wales's home at Tetbury, Gloucestershire, yesterday. The prince made the grounds available for tours by subscribers to the National Gardens Scheme

Mail order head talks of frame-up

By OUR CITY STAFF

A MAILING company chief accused of burning or dumping nearly half a million Abbey National share certificates claimed that he was "framed" by a rival firm, Knightsbridge Crown Court was told yesterday.

Alexander Scott, director of Business Mailing Services, of Greenwich, was "quite unperturbed" when police told him the charred remains of the building society's share certificates had been found in a skip and an oil drum outside his warehouse, Dorian Lovell-Pank, for the prosecution, said. "He suggested he had been framed by SR Communications, a rival mailing company."

Mr Scott, aged 48, of Bexley, southeast London, and three of his employees deny conspiring to defraud Lloyds Bank, Abbey National and its shareholders by suppressing the delivery of share certificates and falsely representing that they had been delivered. It is also alleged that they stole certificates.

In the dock with Mr Scott are Bridget Perry, aged 36, a supervisor, of Deptford; Sarah Denny, aged 26, a driver, of Brockley; and Michael Hazzard, aged 25, a warehouseman, of Woolwich, all in southeast London.

The court has been told that the registrar's department of Lloyds Bank, which organised the £1.7 billion flotation two years ago, sub-contracted BMS to deliver 900,000 share certificates between Yorkshire and Essex. Mr Lovell-Pank said the Crown accepted BMS did not enter the contract with fraud in mind, but resorted to a cover-up when it failed to meet the delivery deadline.

The case continues today.

Insurance on cars and homes likely to increase by 20%

By SARA MCCONNELL

MOTOR and household insurance premiums are set to rise by up to 20 per cent next year after British insurance companies sustained their worst losses in non-life business in 1990.

Substantial increases in claims pushed underwriting losses in the UK to £2,844 million. This helped insurance companies to a total worldwide underwriting loss of £5 billion. The insurance industry was plunged into a total overall trading deficit of £1,482 million.

Joe Palmer, the Association

of British Insurers' chief executive, said the results were appalling. "In the UK, for every £1 of premium collected, companies paid out £1.20 in claims and expenses."

"With massive storm and flood claims last year, subsidised payments up fivefold on a normal year, theft claims up over 34 per cent and fire damage up 25 per cent, all our customers must brace themselves for premium increases of three or four times the rate of inflation," he said.

This would mean an extra £1.50 a week on the average motor insurance policy and at least an extra £1 a week for buildings and contents cover.

The increases would take some time to filter through. Premiums would be kept low by intense competition, which had already held growth of motor premiums at 6 per cent last year.

The association calculated that the average cost of a motor claim had gone up by 13 per cent in 1989 and by a further 19 per cent in 1990. A 50 per cent rise in theft claims, with payouts of £4.0 million, was causing insurance companies major concern. Garage repair costs rose 13 per cent in 1990, and the price of spare parts and personal injury claims rose substantially.

The storm and flood damage of January and February 1990 cost insurers over £2 billion and they handled three million separate claims.

BP is raising petrol prices by nearly 2p a gallon from midnight, taking the price of a gallon of four star to 233.2p. It blames the 1.8p rise on the pound's recent steady fall against the dollar.

Irish talks 'to continue next month'

Sir Ninian Stephen, the former governor-general of Australia who is to chair strand two of the government's devolution initiative on Northern Ireland, said yesterday that he expected unionists and the Irish government to sit down together early next month (Edward Gorman writes).

Sir Ninian, speaking at his home in Melbourne, said he believed that a short first meeting of strand two could be held next month with a resumption after the summer holidays. "But that may be entirely wrong," he told the *Belfast Telegraph*, "as at present I am getting my information second and third hand."

Sir Ninian said that he was being briefed by Sir John Coles, the British High Commissioner to Australia, and by Martin Burke, the Irish ambassador.

His remarks are the first clue as to how Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, intends to handle the delicate question of timing.

The government was criticised yesterday by Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party security spokesman, for its inadequate response to violence in the province by providing just 500 extra troops at the beginning of this month.

Aberdour claim

The parents of Rosemary Aberdour, the charity fundraiser who disappeared last week amid allegations over £1.7 million missing from a hospital charity fund, said last night that their daughter intended to return home in the next few days. Miss Aberdour, aged 29, who styled herself Lady Rosemary Aberdour, had been dismissed from her £21,000-a-year job with a charity foundation.

Thatcher rights

Margaret Thatcher has chosen International Creative Management, an American publishing agency, to sell the rights to her memoirs, it was announced yesterday. The company, based in New York, lists among its clients Henry Kissinger, the former US secretary of state, General Norman Schwarzkopf and Kitty Kelley, author of the bestselling unauthorised biography of Nancy Reagan.

Large minority have unsafe sex

From THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN FLORENCE

BRITAIN'S biggest sex survey has produced remarkable insights into contemporary sexual behaviour, one of its leading investigators said yesterday.

During the £900,000 survey, 20,000 adults disclosed details of their sex lives in interviews and questionnaires. The findings will help to shape Aids-prevention campaigns.

Preliminary findings, presented at an international Aids conference here yesterday, suggest that at least six per cent of sexually active men and women indulge in "unsafe" sex. This is defined as having had two or more partners in the previous year without using a condom, or

having visited a clinic for sexually transmitted diseases during that time. These factors are seen by researchers as putting the individuals at increased risk of exposure to HIV infection.

According to the findings, unmarried men and women under the ages of 35 and 25 respectively are most likely to have unsafe sex.

"The six per cent is likely to emerge as an underestimate when the final data from the survey are published," Anne Johnson, senior lecturer in epidemiology at University College and Middlesex Medical School, London, said. "It is a substantial minority and we are finding that this risky

behaviour occurs in all social classes and all levels of education."

Women aged between 16 and 24 were five times more likely than women over 45 to take sexual risks. Many young women had sex with men significantly older than themselves.

"Some women may be at higher risk of getting a sexually transmitted disease at a younger age than men, because they first experience intercourse earlier in life and tend to have partners who are older," Dr Johnson said.

The survey will be completed in the autumn and the full results published about a year later.

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Anchor, Chichester; The George Hotel, Crawley; The White Horse Hotel, Dorking; Peveril of the Peak, Dove Dale/Ashbourne; The Imperial, Exmoor/Barnstaple; The Imperial, Exmouth; The Bush Hotel, Farnham; The Crown, Framlingham; The Angel and Royal, Grantham; The Royal, Isle of Wight/Ventnor; Larkfield Priory Hotel, Maidstone; The Marne, North Berwick; The Hurtwood Inn, Pissalake; The Atholl Palace, Pitlochry; The White Horse, Romsey; The White Hart, Salisbury; The Saracen's Head, Southwell; The White Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon; Bear of Rodborough, Stroud; The County, Taunton; The Bedford, Tavistock; The Bell, Telford; The Grand Atlantic, Weston-super-Mare; The King's Head, Wimbome Minster; The Crown, Woodbridge; The Cliford, Worcester; The Manor Hotel, Yeovil.

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All hotel bookings subject to availability, with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. All details correct at time of publication. Offer valid June 19th to June 30th with first 5 night break starting June 20th. Prices are based on sharing a twin/double room for 5 consecutive nights on a dinner bed and breakfast basis. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Only valid at hotels listed above and on bookings made by June 21st.

BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 21ST

Man convicted of killing policemen released from jail

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the three men sentenced to life imprisonment for the shooting of three policemen in Shepherds Bush, west London, in 1966 has been released on licence after almost 25 years in prison amid anger from police leaders.

John Witney, aged 61, was freed last week in spite of a judge's recommendation that he should serve 30 years. In December 1966, Witney, Harry Roberts and John Duddy were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of two constables and a sergeant who disturbed them as they were planning a car theft.

Witney is believed to be the first adult convicted of the murder of a police officer to be released since the abolition of capital punishment in 1965. Yesterday the Home Office said Witney had been released on life licence which means a breach of the licence could mean his return at any time.

At the trial, Mr Justice Glyn-Jones told the three: "You have been justly convicted of what is perhaps the most heinous crime that has been committed in this country for a generation or more. I

think it likely that no home secretary regarding the enormity of your crime will ever think fit to show mercy by releasing you on licence. This is one of those cases in which the sentence of imprisonment for life may well be treated as meaning exactly that." He added: "Let any home secretary in the future be minded to consider your release on licence I have to make a recommendation." The recommendation was 30 years.

The recommended sentence for Witney was lowered when his case came up for first review in 1983 because he had not fired a shot himself in the killings. The decision was made in consultation with the then home secretary Leon Brittan and the Lord Chief Justice Lord Lane. The reduced sentence in no way minimised the horror of the crime but reflected Witney's role in it. Witney was transferred to Leyhill open prison near Bristol in 1985 in preparation for possible release.

Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, said yesterday: "The decision to reduce the recommended 30

years was not made public at the time. If it had been, we would have objected very strongly." The federation, which represents junior ranks, has been campaigning for life to mean life for police killers after accepting that capital punishment was unlikely to be reintroduced.

At the trial in December 1966, the jury was told by Sir Dingle Foot, QC, the solicitor general of the day, that the murders were cold-blooded and deliberate killings. The three were in Witney's van with three guns. They were stopped by the police and Roberts opened fire killing two policemen. Duddy killed the third. Witney was the driver and never pressed the trigger of a gun but was regarded by the Crown as being as guilty of murder in the eyes of the law as the other two.

All three of the men were small time criminals. Witney, unemployed and living in Paddington, had five convictions for petty crime and had deserted twice from the army. A married man he had met Roberts in prison. He met Duddy while he was a lorry driver in northwest London.

On the day of the killing the three took Witney's ten-year-old van to find a car and then carry out a raid. In Braybrook Street that afternoon they were spotted by Detective Sergeant Christopher Head, Detective Constable David Wombwell and PC Geoffrey Fox. Roberts opened fire and later said: "They were going to search the van and I realised I would get 14 years so I had to shoot them."

30 YEARS AT LEAST FOR POLICE KILLERS

No Home Secretary 'likely to show mercy'

Harry Roberts, John Edward Witney, and John Duddy were each sentenced to life imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for their part in the murder of three police officers who were shot down in a van in Shepherds Bush, west London, on the afternoon of August 12, 1966.

How The Times reported the sentencing of the three men after the court hearings in 1966



Movable feast: police taking charge yesterday of one of the 1,000 hippies who had settled on National Trust land at Stockbridge Down, Hampshire.

Officers moved them to another field three miles away in an operation costing tens of thousands of pounds. The hippies and their 120 lorries will be

allowed to stay at the new venue for their celebration of the summer solstice, in order to discourage them from going to Stonehenge.

Call for judicial review in Scargill ruling

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government's trade union watchdog said yesterday that it would apply for a High Court judicial review in its case against Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), over the union's financial accounts after a Sheffield court dismissed the admissibility of its principal evidence.

Sheffield magistrates' court will this morning hear the application for a judicial review of the court's decisions in the case on points of law.

Counsel for Mr Scargill, the NUM and the union's general secretary Peter Heathfield, who are the subject of the criminal charges being brought by the certification officer, told the court that they will argue that the application should be dismissed.

The union and its two national officials are pleading not guilty to charges that they willfully neglected to keep, control and submit to Matthew Wake, the government's certification officer, proper accounts as required under trade union laws.

After a ruling on Monday by Ian Crompton, the Sheffield stipendiary magistrate, that vital financial and other documents could not be brought as evidence because of legal professional privilege between a lawyer and his client, Mr Crompton yesterday ruled that Gavin Lightman, QC, the leading lawyer who at the NUM's request last year carried out an investigation of the union's finances, could not be brought to court today as the prosecution had sought to answer questions about his report.

He further ruled that it was "manifestly and blatantly unfair" for the prosecution to attempt to use as evidence reports of confidential discussions between Mr Scargill, Mr Heathfield and Mr Lightman while he was preparing his report.

His rulings followed a second day dominated by legal argument. At one point, Mr Crompton told the lawyers: "We are in danger of reaching a stage where this case will never come to an end."

After his rulings, Roger Ter Haar, for the prosecution, said that all Lightman-related evidence was now inadmissible, though he said that the certification officer had other evidence on which the prosecution could rely.

He said, however, that because of a number of "unique" legal features of the case, the prosecution was calling for an adjournment of the case, and would apply for a judicial review.

The hearing continues today.

Criminals may face parole challenge

By OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of crime and their families may be able to challenge decisions to release serious offenders on parole in the High Court under new legislation. Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, chairman of the Parole Board, said yesterday. When the criminal justice bill, in its final stages in Parliament, becomes law offenders will be given reason why their parole or release on licence has been agreed or denied. Lord Colville said this would certainly mean some prisoners would seek a judicial review of the grounds for their release being denied. The way may also be open for victims and their families to go to court to try to halt release.

Lord Colville, introducing the board's 1990 report, said victims and their families had tried to challenge decisions in Canada where reasons for parole are given. He was fairly sure that someone would try in Britain once the law was introduced. The case would have to be tested in the High Court to see if the victim or their family had any legal standing to challenge the parole decision.

Under the proposals prisoners serving up to four years would be released under supervision after half their sentence. Decisions on inmates serving four to seven years will be taken by the board. Prisoners serving longer sentences would be dealt with by a board recommendation to the Home Office. Lifers would be handled by a tribunal and murder cases by the Home Office.

Report of the Parole Board. (Stationery Office, £7.40)

Mothers 'see themselves as second-class citizens'

By RAY CLANCY

MOTHERS regard themselves as second-class citizens and are annoyed at the government's lack of interest in family matters, according to a poll published yesterday. The way many vote in the general election could depend on each party's child care policies, the poll indicates.

One in eight of the mothers who took part in a Farley survey conducted by Gallup in April said that family policy would greatly influence their votes. A further three in ten said they would be influenced to some extent. Child benefit and help for working mothers emerged as the key issues.

The 431 mothers with child-

ren aged 18 months or under said the main problems they faced were financial, with high interest rates and the poll tax singled out as particular concerns. Child benefit was an important part of the household budget, according to 81 per cent of mothers, and even those with a household income of more than £30,000 a year said that benefit was needed because of the cost of looking after babies, put at an average of £70.20 a month.

Gordon Heald, managing director of Gallup, said: "It was quite startling to find that almost half the mothers claimed that a political party's policy towards families would

influence their voting. The overall tone at the moment seems to be one of pessimism, and I was surprised to find that four out of five mothers regarded themselves as second-class citizens. There must also be concern about more than half of them feeling guilty about being 'just' a mum."

He said that the survey indicated that the parties should devote more energy to family issues. "The government is going to have to introduce tax relief for child care soon. Over the last 12 months more women have been going back to work mainly because of financial problems, but 86 per cent of mothers said it was difficult to return to work, so measures are needed to make it easier."

The mothers listed the most urgent provisions as cheaper child care, tax relief for child care, flexible working hours and work-place creches.

Although the government increased child benefit for the first time in four years in the March budget, mothers who attended the launch of the survey said it was not enough. Jane Johnson, aged 25, of Coggeshall, Essex, said: "Child benefit does not cover the cost of having a baby, in fact it only just pays for the nappies." She works as a secretary for three days a week, leaving her daughter Katie, aged 17 months, with a child-minder.

The budget increased child benefit by £1 for the first child and 25p for each additional child but has been criticised by the other parties for failing to bring it in line with inflation. The Labour party has promised to restore the value of child benefit and the Liberal Democrats said they would increase the amount by £1 immediately for each child.

Diary, page 14

Labour peer with a taste for the hunt

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ANN Mallalieu QC, the socialist barrister with a passion for foxhunting who takes her seat in the House of Lords today, is expected to bring a new note to its Labour benches with her strong support for government legal

reforms. She favours breaking the Bar's monopoly in the higher courts. "If we can't see off competition, we are not worth our money," she says in this week's issue of the Bar magazine *Counsel*.

Miss Mallalieu, aged 45, who has combined a career at the Bar with bringing up two daughters, backs reform of the judicial appointments system. Women with children have not been "running a race at level weights", she says.

She is tipped as Labour's legal affairs spokesman after the next election, but her views do not always accord with the party line. On hunting, she says: "What people do not realise is that Trotsky was a passionate foxhunter, so was Engels. There is a long history of socialist foxhunting."

Mallalieu: QC who wants to end Bar monopoly



Unqualified 'solicitor' worked for top firm

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN who failed to qualify as a solicitor has been working as a pensions lawyer for several years for Britain's largest law firm, Clifford Chance, and last month was almost appointed a partner as a "vote of confidence" in her skills.

The discovery is reported today in the journal *Legal Business*, which says that the woman, Margaret Palfrey, also worked for two other City law firms, Cameron Markby (where she did her articles) and Lovell White and King, where she worked as assistant solicitor. Yesterday Geoffrey Howe, a partner with Clifford Chance, confirmed that Miss Palfrey was offered a partnership and that "for personal reasons" she resigned and did not take up the offer.

Mr Howe added that there was no requirement that everyone who worked for the firm should be qualified as a solicitor; the firm employed legal executives and clerks, for instance. The only requirement was that partners had to be legally qualified. "There is no reason to believe other than that all her clients had absolutely first class advice." He rejected any suggestion that her clients would be entitled to a reduction on fees. Fees were based on the quality of the advice, he said.

However, enquiries to the Law Society have shown that she was not on the roll and that Clifford Chance reported the matter to the society as soon as it discovered the truth.

Yesterday Walter Merricks, assistant secretary general at the Law Society, said: "We are investigating to see if it is appropriate for us to take any action."

Church court orders peace over chalice

By CRAIG SETON

THE villagers of Wymeswold, Leicestershire, were told by an ecclesiastical court yesterday to end two years of bickering over plans by the parish church to sell a 16th century silver chalice - worth up to £250,000 to pay for repairs.

The dispute that has divided the community led to a 100-name petition calling for the resignation of the vicar, the Rev Leslie Robinson, who supported the sale, amid suggestions that the chalice affair had raised issues over his style of spiritual leadership. Some parishioners were upset by an article in the *Church Times* that quoted him as saying: "I am trying to teach the faith in a village that does not want it."

It was the discovery of dry rot and crumbling stonework at the 14th century church of St Mary that led to the proposed sale of the chalice. Yesterday, a Church of England consistory court was held in Wymeswold to try to resolve the fate of the pre-reformation silver cup. The court was convened at St Mary's where the vicar, members of the parochial church council and two dozen villagers sat in the pews to hear Nigel Seed, the court chan-

cellor, say that he wanted no "parish bashing". However, what was expected to be a hearing lasting up to two days ended in just an hour.

Mr Seed heard that the parochial church council, which voted by eight votes to two to sell the chalice two years ago, had now decided to withdraw the petition seeking permission for the sale because villagers had organised an appeal that has raised £8,000.

The court was told that repairs costing £90,000 were needed, but Mr Seed decided that only £25,000 worth to the church floor and roof were urgent. He adjourned the application to withdraw the original petition for 12 months and gave authority for the chalice to be publicly displayed in Leicestershire's county museum for two years.



Robinson: challenge to spiritual leadership

Men twice as likely as women to gain firsts at Oxford

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MEN at Oxford university are gaining twice as many top degrees as their women, new research has shown. The results mirror previous findings at Cambridge and are leading to calls for examination reform.

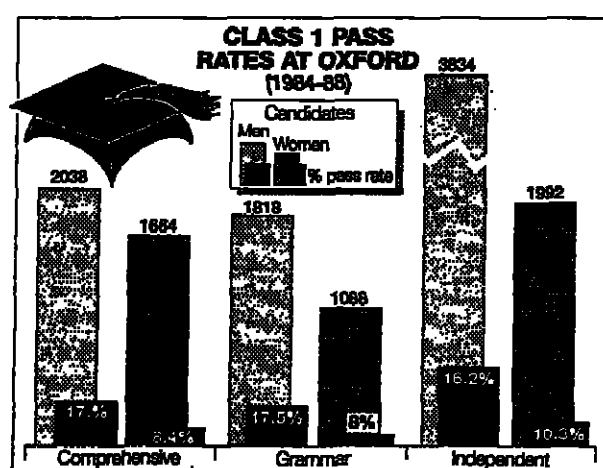
During the five years ending in 1988, the proportion of first class degrees among Oxford's male students was almost twice that of their female counterparts. The discrepancy was greatest among those from state schools, where 8.2 per cent of women took firsts compared with 17.2 per cent of men.

Among the possible causes suggested by the survey's author, Gerry McCrum, a fellow of Hertford College, is the Oxford tutorial system.

He says it may be too confrontational for many women who prefer a more collaborative style of learning. There is little difference between the sexes in terms of average A-level scores at entry.

There is no national breakdown of degree classifications by sex, but an analysis of 15 years' results at Cambridge has also shown that men are about twice as likely as women to be awarded a first class degree. The Cambridge research, by Charles Goodhart, a former senior tutor of Caius College, also showed fewer women failing or taking poor degrees.

The report by Dr McCrum, published in the *Oxford Magazine*, shows



state school men performing marginally better than those from independent schools. The position is reversed among women students. The greatest differences identified, however, are between the sexes. In 1986, 20 per cent of men from comprehensive schools took firsts, compared with 8.2 per cent of women from the

same educational background. Even among former independent school pupils, where the gap has tended to be narrower, 20.4 per cent of men and only 9.4 per cent of women were awarded firsts in that year.

Dr McCrum says in his report: "The origins - there are doubtless many - of the striking disparity in the current performance between men and women must be examined. There is a fashionable censorship which works to inhibit discussion of this problem. If we are to know why women underperform this will have to be disregarded."

He suggests that the bunching of final examinations, often presenting undergraduates with two three-hour papers on

successive days, may also place women at a significant disadvantage. They may suffer more from exhaustion than their male counterparts, and the menstrual cycle may affect performance.

Dr McCrum said yesterday: "It does seem absolute madness to put all the examinations together. It would be perfectly simple to spread them out more."

Dr Goodhart, a biologist, has a more controversial explanation: "Biological differences are found in most animals, not just humans. The mean is about the same for both sexes, but the variations are much greater for males at the extremes."

Oxford's equal opportunities committee will discuss Dr McCrum's findings next term.

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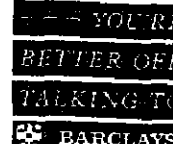
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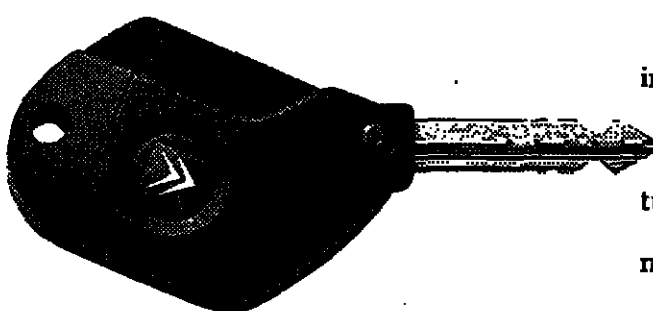
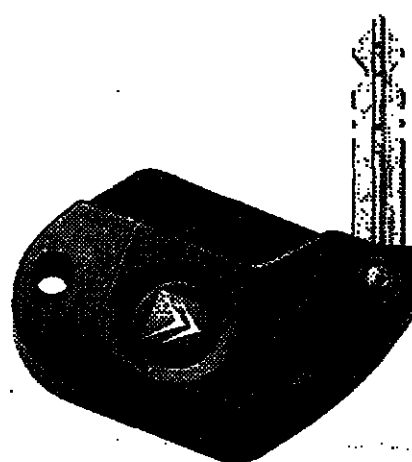
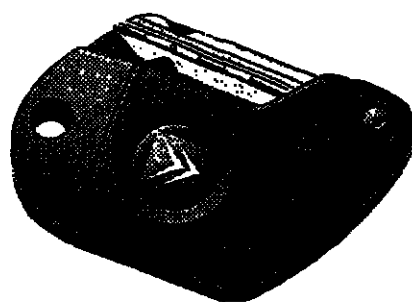
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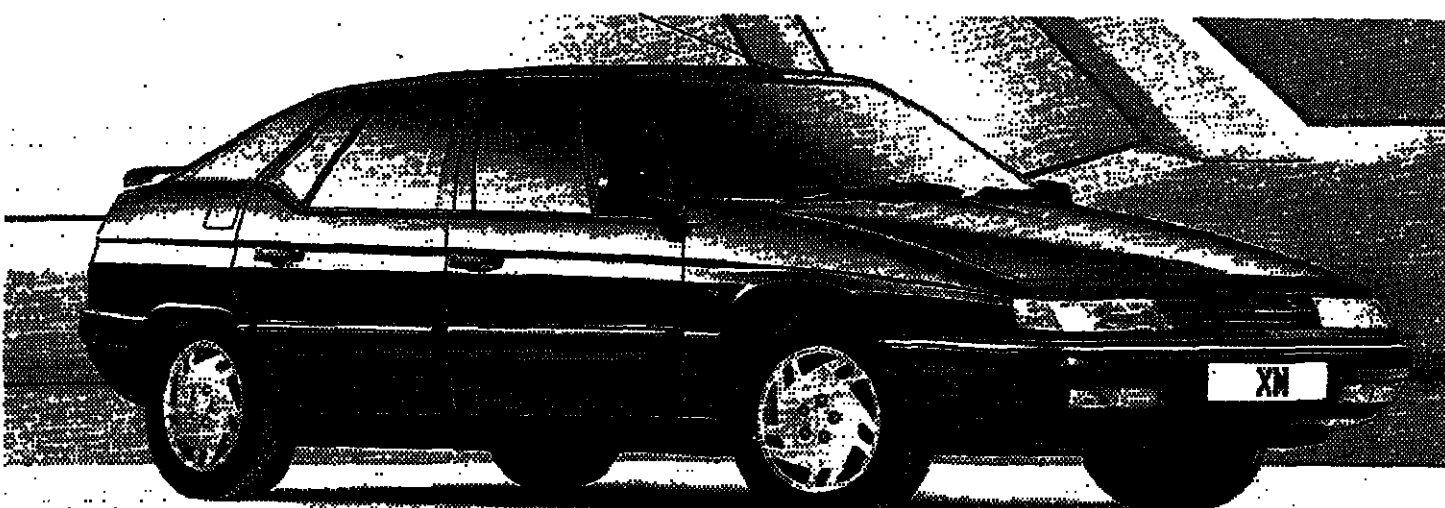
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Educationist defends banned book on grammar

By DAVID TYLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THERE is no single way of speaking or writing English correctly, according to the English professor at the centre of the controversy over a government decision to withhold a £21 million guide on the teaching of grammar in England and Wales.

"The guide certainly isn't wacky or trendy - the teaching material is a very detailed and thorough guide to grammar," said Ronald Carter of the English studies department at Nottingham university, who worked with 150 other educationists for two years to produce the government-commissioned guide.

The government banned publication, maintaining that the guide was too complicated for teachers to understand, too long, too wordy, full of jargon, patchy in quality and that it failed to give enough emphasis to the positive role teachers

Tribunal strikes off bankrupt solicitor

A lawyer who used a client's account to pay off his own £7,315 Diners Club bill was struck off by a solicitor's disciplinary tribunal yesterday.

Simon Rutledge tried to pay the bills with a worthless company cheque after a bankruptcy order was made against him in May 1990. A second bankruptcy order was made on July 30 when a cheque from a client account - also thousands of pounds in debt - was not met.

Receivers found debts of nearly £16,000 including £12,107 on a client account. Rutledge had practised law at his firm, Rutledge and Co, in northeast London, since 1981.

£100,000 award for union chief

The general secretary of the breakaway air union, Cabin Crew 89, won £100,000 libel damages from the Transport and General Workers' Union over a newsletter which he claimed accused him of making off with union funds.

James Welsh, of Mortimer, Reading, told the High Court he was horrified by the article.

Royal help

The Duke of York stopped his Jaguar on the M3 in Hampshire and sent his detective to help a woman who had been in an accident, Buckingham Palace said. The duke put a warning light on his car and waited until the police arrived.

Marine cleared

A former marine who parachuted from York Minster will not face criminal charges because police have failed to trace him and the case was not serious enough to take up more police time, York magistrates ruled.

Souvenir sham

Trading officers have found that "local" souvenirs on sale to holidaymakers in Cornwall include dairy ice cream from Surrey and pasties made in the Home Counties.

Air crash

Houses in the village of Tog Hill, near Bristol, were plunged into darkness when a microlite aircraft hit a power cable as it tried to land in a field. The pilot and his navigator suffered minor injuries.

Underweight

Nearly one in three potato sacks sold to shoppers in the North-East were underweight, according to Tyne and Wear trading standards officers.

River clean-up

Three kitchen sinks, an armchair, six supermarket trolleys and five miles of fishing line were found during a clean-up of the River Trent.

Trees memorial

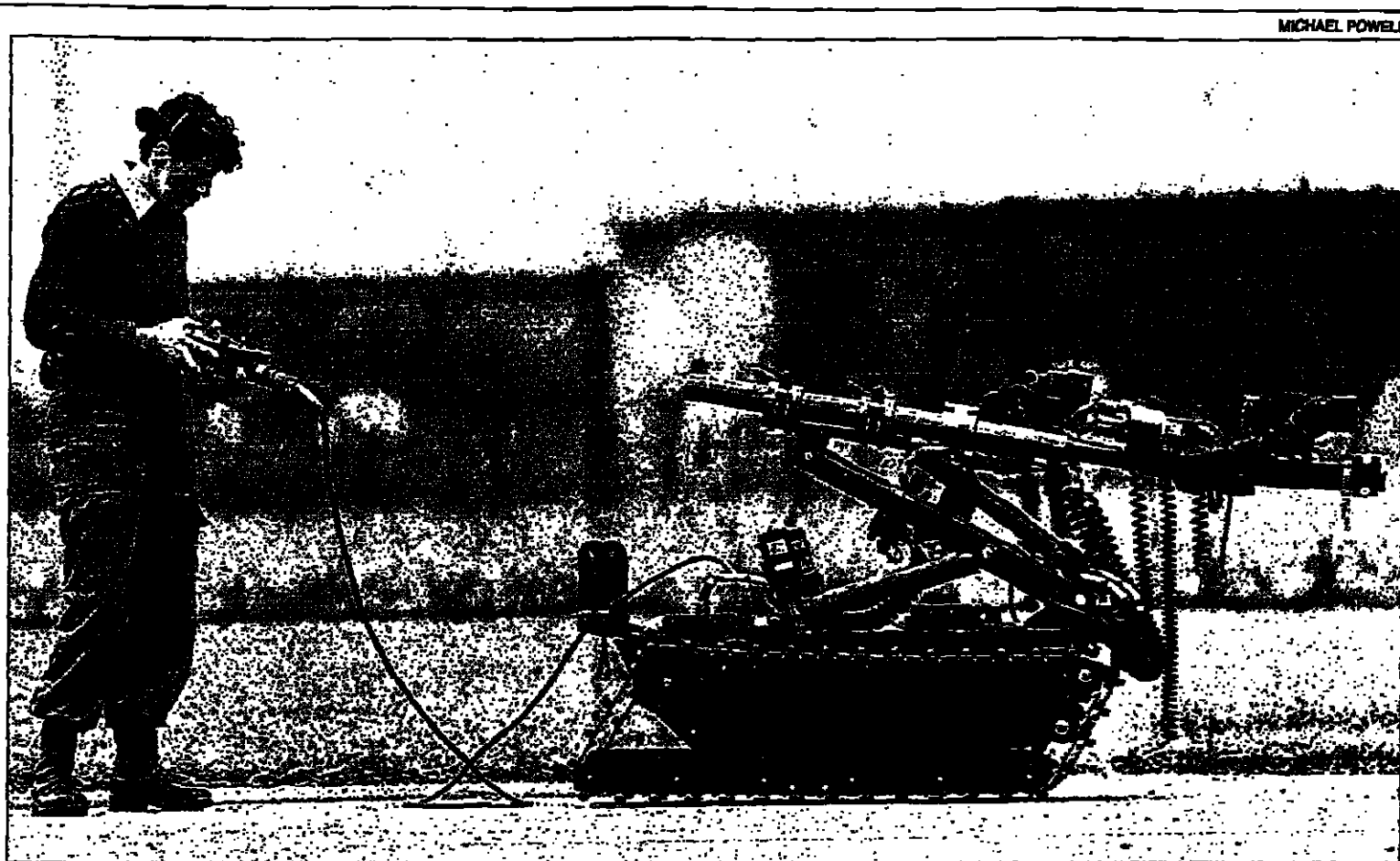
Parents of cot death babies have planted a forest in memory of their children at Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Baby check-out

A pregnancy testing service has started at the Co-op's Benton supermarket on North Tyneside, Tyne and Wear.

£40,000 raid

A gang stole motorcycles worth £40,000 from a police station in Frome, Somerset.



Feeling remote: Sgt Kelly, operating a "wheelbarrow" remote-control bomb defuser, is challenging a rule that is thwarting her ambitions

Woman bomb expert yearns for equality

Women in the services are banned from tackling terrorist bombs. Alexandra King talks to the RAF's only woman "bomb doctor" who wants that rule to be changed

AS THE RAF's first woman pilot, Flight Lieutenant Julie Gibson, received her wings this month another high-flying woman in that service was feeling distinctly grounded.

Sergeant Caroline Kelly, the only experienced woman explosive ordnance disposal officer, or "bomb doctor", in the British forces, is at the centre of a controversy as she is highly-charged as any of the devices she has defused. That concerns her ambition to tackle terrorist bombs.

The sergeant, a 31-year-old married woman who joined the RAF when she was 19, commands one of four squads of six explosives experts in the RAF Armament Support Unit. She has been in charge of defusing hundreds of bombs during her two-and-a-half years at her present rank.

Her squadron leader supports her ambition to become licensed as Britain's first woman IEDD (improvised explosive device disposal) operative, able to deal with terrorist bombs as well as with conventional munitions disposal (CMD). "We have made strenuous representations on her behalf," her commanding officer says. "From the RAF's point of view she can do anything a fellow can."

However, it is the army that licenses IEDD officers, and it will not, therefore, for the moment Sgt Kelly can attend only in a supportive role as a number two on IEDD calls. The

"glass ceiling" she has come up against might foil the ambitions of other women hankering after the same line of duty.

Sgt Kelly, a 5ft 2in former farm girl from Scotland, says: "It's very frustrating. I can identify and deal with most things in the world of conventional weapons, from 250lb bombs from 1918 to the latest technology in runway cratering devices. The IEDD work would complete my job and give me job satisfaction."

The sergeant, who wears khaki and air force blue eye-shadow to co-ordinate with her combat fatigues and beret and who drives tanks, skis, and goes white water rafting, likes "anything that has got a challenge."

She and her superiors blame the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for the impasse. The corps is the focus of tonight's BBC television documentary, *The Visit*, called, appropriately, "Bomb Disposal: Mass". Because the RAOC, which trains and licenses all personnel tackling terrorist bombs, refuses to admit British women to that duty since it is

deemed to contravene defence policy on women and front-line combat. "But I am combatant," Sgt Kelly says. "I am eligible to be sent to the front line, and would have been had my unit been called to the Gulf. What is the difference?"

The RAOC maintains that there is nothing stopping the RAF from sending Sgt Kelly on the IEDD course at its Army School of Ammunition where all such operatives - who must be licensed and renew that licence every six months - are trained. "Why don't they send her on the course and let her come first and make a good case for women being licensed?" a brigadier asks.

Sgt Kelly's squadron leader replies: "I can't afford to waste a valuable training place on someone who cannot be licensed." Sgt Kelly agrees: "It would not be right of me to take up a place if there was no prospect of licensing. Why don't they say they'll license me if I pass?"

The lieutenant-colonel in charge of the Army School of Ammunition, which holds a monopoly on IEDD training, says: "Two Nato women are

on a course here this week. And we had a Canadian woman last year who was the best on the course, even though she was only 4ft 6in and we had to pull her head through the [protective] armoured suit. There is no reason why women can't do the job as well as men."

Sgt Kelly is "brilliant to work with", one of her squad says. "I've worked for her for two years and she's not easy-going, but she knows how to get the job done and doesn't hesitate to do whatever's necessary."

Searching through the rule book to find the clause banning women from IEDD work, a Ministry of Defence (Army) spokesman discovered, somewhat to his surprise, that "there is no written, explicit rule barring women from IEDD work". It was more a policy of custom and practice. And that is now being reviewed.

A colonel involved in the review said: "We are looking at a 'no gender structure' for the future, in the restructured army of the mid-1990s." The changes may come too late for Sgt Kelly. However, from a purely practical perspective, she is convinced it makes sense to train more women in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and IEDD work.

"If we ever had another war such as world war two all the men would go to the front line and the first line of defence, protecting the airfields, would go to women," she says. "And that involves EOD." QED.

Rules drawn up for release of man-made life forms

By MICHAEL MCCARTHEY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A NEW risk-assessment system for genetic engineering was unveiled yesterday by the Royal Commission on environmental pollution.

Known as Genhaz, it is a detailed set of rules for thinking all the unthinkable consequences of releasing into the environment new man-made life forms such as viruses, insects, plants and eventually animals.

Such releases are growing rapidly with the development of the biotechnology industry: there have been 28 in Britain since the first, a modified insect virus which was released as an experimental pesticide by Oxford's Institute of Virology in 1986. Nearly all have been genetically modified plants, such as potatoes and tobacco, intended to gain initial experimental knowledge.

The possibility that releases could go catastrophically wrong has been widely envisaged, not only in science

fiction films. Professor James Lovelock in *Gaia*, his celebrated study of life processes, painted a picture of a rogue algal growth escaping from an Australian research institute, breeding in a river near by, descending to the sea and eventually covering the entire Pacific Ocean.

The Genhaz system has been designed by the Royal



Lord Lewis: "Rules should improve confidence"

Commission to foresee from the outset the possibility of such an incident, and is based on a risk assessment method widely used in the chemical industry and consists of a long questionnaire to generate thinking about unexpected consequences.

Lord Lewis, chairman of the Royal Commission, who is warden of Robinson College, Cambridge, who introduced the system yesterday, said: "We believe its widespread adoption would significantly improve confidence in the safety of releases of genetically modified organisms, thus helping to provide the conditions for the science to develop, and the potential benefits to be realised."

Revised regulations on releases of new organisms will be issued later this year, and Lord Lewis invited the government to incorporate the Genhaz system into the recommended risk assessment procedures.

Prayer book sold for £30,800

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

A PRAYER book the size of a postage stamp, thought to be the smallest Book of Hours in existence, sold for £30,800, three times its estimate, at Sotheby's yesterday to the London dealer Quaritch.

The book, made in France during the early 16th century, includes eight jewel-like miniatures of scenes from the New Testament. Its original owner is unknown, as is the identity of its buyer, although Quaritch is known to represent the collector John Paul Getty Jr.

Top price at the sale was £1.37 million for a copy of the colourful *Chronicles of the Hundred Years' War* by the French historian Jean Froissart, which had been estimated at £1 million. The private prayer book of Clement VII, the first Anti-Pope to set up his seat in Avignon, sold on its lower estimate for £220,000 to the Bibliotheque d'Avignon.

No place for gays in today's army, the commanders say

Homosexuality is to stay outlawed in the forces. Michael Evans reports on the reasons for the decision

THE government is unlikely ever to follow the example of ancient Sparta, which believed homosexuality in its army had definite advantages. Officers and their favoured companions used to be chained together in battle and fought as a pair, each protecting the other.

Homosexuality in the British Army, and in the two other services, continues to be officially banned. As confirmed by Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, in the Commons on Monday night, homosexuality is to remain a disciplinary offence. "The formation of sexually-motivated relationships is potentially very destructive to discipline and morale, particularly when they cross rank boundaries," he said.

If there is one aspect of this sensitive subject which makes it unlikely that the British authorities will change their view, it is the risk involved in an officer applying unfair pressure or giving undue favour to a man or woman in the junior ranks because

of his or her homosexual feelings.

Whenever asked whether the military attitude towards homosexuality is out of step with modern thinking, the usual response from a commander in any of the three services is that the armed forces cannot afford to turn a blind eye to homosexual relations which could cause operational difficulties. "We live in too intimate a society," one army officer said yesterday. "We cannot allow homosexuality when men are living so close together in tanks or trenches."

In the army, if a soldier is judged by his actions to be a homosexual, he is called before his commanding officer and it is suggested that he leave the army. The relevant papers would note that he had been administratively discharged. In most cases, the

accused agrees and the matter "is dealt with quietly", as one officer put it.

Where the soldier refuses to co-operate, however, the commander may have to fall back on the Service Discipline Acts which give him the power to dismiss homosexuals. Even when no disciplinary action is taken, those found to have homosexual tendencies or to be engaged in homosexual practices will almost inevitably be administratively discharged.

The statistics appear to bear out the claim that most cases are handled without too much fuss: the number who left the army on an administrative discharge linked to their homosexuality between 1988 and 1990 inclusive was 112. The figure for the Royal Navy over the same period was 29, and for the RAF, 53.

Few have been dismissed for homosexuality as a result of a conviction under the Service Discipline Acts: between 1988 and 1990, there were 18 from the army, four from the navy and two from the RAF. Last month the all-party Commons select committee on the armed forces bill called for homosexual activity in the services to be legalised.

US honey farmers make a beeline for British monk

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A 92-YEAR-OLD Benedictine monk at Buckfast Abbey, on the edge of Dartmoor, has gone to the aid of American beekeepers. A parasitic mite is cutting a swathe through their commercial honey-bee colonies and hopes are pinned on a hybrid strain of queen bee from the Buckfast hives which is resistant to the pest.

Brother Adam, a black-cowled figure long familiar to farmers on the moors, took up cross-breeding some 75 years ago after most of the British bee population had been wiped out by a condition dubbed the Isle of Wight disease, after the place where it was diagnosed.

The disease was attributed to *acarapis woodi*, the acarine or tracheal mite, which clogs the breathing tubes in the bee's thorax, though scientists now think that the high death rate was probably caused by a paralytic-inducing virus rather

than the mite itself. According to Brenda Ball, an insect pathologist at the Rothamsted experimental station at Harpenden, Hertfordshire, the mites cause problems when 30 per cent or more of adult bees are infested. "Infested adults tend to die sooner, so that fewer survive the winter. If brood production in the spring is not enough to make up the loss, the colony gradually declines and dies."

The incidence of the mite has declined in Britain over the past 40 years, partly due to the production of pest-resistant strains at Buckfast. The United States was thought to be free of the mite until it was detected there in July 1984.

Kim Kaplan, of the US agriculture department's research service, said: "Losses can range from 20 per cent to 80 per cent of honey-bee colonies and a serious shortage of bees for pollinating

apples, blueberries and cranberries is forecast. The border with Canada has been closed to imports of American-reared bees, virtually destroying a \$10 million-a-year export industry in California."

Fourteen queen bees imported from Buckfast will be mated with local drones (male bees) with the aim of breeding mite-resistant genes into a commercially productive hybrid. That could take two or three years. Brenda Ball cautions against too high expectations: "Traits that confer an advantage in one country do not necessarily transfer well to another."

Brother Adam and two assistants tend 300 hives in 14 apiaries throughout Devon. The key facility is an isolation apiary on Dartmoor where there are few flowers to attract wild drones that might contaminate the breeding process.



Golden touch: Brother Adam, aged 92, tends some of his hybrid bees at Buckfast Abbey, Dartmoor

Travel is the world's biggest industry

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

TRAVEL and tourism is now the world's biggest single industry, employing more than 112 million people and producing almost £100 billion a year in taxes.

The size of the industry has astonished even the World Travel and Tourism Council, a new group of 31 of the world's leading airlines and tourist organisations which commissioned the first detailed independent worldwide survey of their industry.

"We always believed that the industry was big, but because individual countries calculated its size and impact in different ways we could never quantify it exactly," a council official said. "Now we have discovered that it is staggering in its reality and we will be using the survey to impress on governments how

important the industry is to their economies and that they must avoid policies which restrict its growth."

Among the facts elicited by the report, *Travel, Tourism and the World Economy*, is that the 2,850,000 people employed in the industry in Britain is more than double the combined total of those employed in agriculture, electronics, motors, textiles and steel. Worldwide, tourism and travel companies employ one in every 15 workers and in most countries the industry is the biggest single employer.

In 1989 travellers spent £1,531 billion on transportation, accommodation, catering, recreational and cultural activities, and in most Western countries travel is now the second largest household expenditure after food.

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country. I've no
idea when I'll
be back.

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302, 10/11/91

Union threat to halt burials as Liverpool jobs dispute widens

By RONALD FAUX

COUNCIL workers in Liverpool threatened yesterday to stop all burials from next Monday in an escalation of union action over job losses in the city. The crematorium workers and gravediggers will be called out on strike unless compulsory redundancy notices are withdrawn.

Liverpool council is seeking 1,000 redundancies from its 29,000 workforce, 30 of which are due to come from the burial service.

Ian Lowes, branch convenor of the GMB boiler-makers' union, said: "If people think it is wrong for people who work in cemeteries and crematoria to take industrial action, equally they should be protected from compulsory redundancy."

He said that existing funeral bookings for next week would be honoured if the strike went ahead, but that no new bookings would be taken.

The strike threat comes as the council's dustbin men await a decision today on whether the rubbish service will be contracted out to a French company, which has promised to halve the council's cleansing costs. Up to 460

jobs are likely to be lost. The union says it will call an all-out strike if the contact is approved.

More than 12,000 tonnes of rubbish lie uncollected at emergency dumps in parks and streets around the city.

Rubbish and its non-collection have become constant themes of the Walton by-election campaign as moderate and left-wing Labour supporters argue over who is to blame and the Liberal Democrats and Tories use the trouble in the cleansing department as an example of Labour government.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said in Liverpool yesterday that Labour had sacrificed the city and its people on the altar of its own factionalism. "When you see the rubbish in the streets, that is a visible sign of the priorities, the tangible evidence, the stinking piles of rubbish, of a party which prefers to fight its own bitter civil wars to the death, whatever the cost to the people of this city," he said.

Lesley Mahmood, the Real Labour candidate, met dustbin men yesterday to ask for

their votes. "Whatever action you decide to take in defence of your jobs we will be with you," she said.

Paul Clark, Liberal Democrat candidate and a city councillor in Walton for 15 years, said he was worried about the negative publicity Liverpool was receiving that could cost the city millions in lost investment. He appeared less worried about how the party would fare in the by-election. Liverpool, he said, had a strong Liberal tradition, and in the local elections 46 per cent in Walton had voted Labour, only 6 per cent ahead of the Liberal Democrats. In the city as a whole, 54,000 had voted Liberal Democrat, 1,000 more than had voted Labour. "This is not the capital of Militancy. The image is unfair and untrue," he added.

Peter Kilfoyle, Labour's official candidate, has highlighted poverty and unemployment as among the main issues of his campaign. A recent survey showed that poverty was roughly twice the national average in Liverpool.

Kinnoch to visit, page 1



Just like that: Mrs Rumbold reminds Hypolite, back in prison, how he won the weightlifting championship

Champion goes back to the prison gym

By RAY CLANCY

BACK in the gym at Wandsworth jail yesterday, Rodney Hypolite celebrated becoming the European under-23 power lifting champion. He won the title at the European championships held in Amstetten, Austria, last week, and aims to repeat his performance at the British championships this weekend.

Hypolite was visited by Angela Rumbold, prisons minister, yesterday. A Home Office spokesman said last night: "He is very pleased with his achievements." It was unusual for an inmate to be allowed out of Britain to compete on an international level, but staff regarded Hypolite as trustworthy.

Graham Clarke, the Wandsworth governor, accompanied him on the trip to Austria. Hypolite, aged 22, who has served five years of a ten-year sentence for violent crime, became interested in the sport when he was at a young offenders' institute. When he was moved to Wandsworth, south London, 18 months ago staff encouraged him to compete. "Sport is regarded as beneficial for inmates and those who are interested are encouraged," the spokesman said. Hypolite trained in the prison gym for an average of five hours a week.

Gulf servicemen to claim back poll tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE government has been forced into an embarrassing climbdown over its promise that servicemen who served in the Gulf would be exempted from paying the poll tax.

The environment department said yesterday that its attempts to grant automatic exemption had failed and that service personnel returning from the Gulf would have to pay their poll tax bills in full.

Under a compromise worked out by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, the defence ministry will refund any poll tax payments for the period that servicemen spent in the Gulf.

On February 19 this year Mr Heseltine announced that local authorities would be compensated if they agreed to remove the names of Gulf personnel from their poll tax registers. On the same day the High Court ruled, in a test case, that only continuous absence from Britain of more

than six months could entitle a person to exemption from the poll tax.

As a result of the ruling Mr Heseltine's officials were forced to rethink the scheme and to abandon their call for councils to grant automatic exemption to service personnel sent to the Gulf.

The outcome of the exercise was the new scheme by which servicemen will pay their poll tax bills and then present the receipts for reimbursement. An environment department spokesman said: "They

should pay the bills to the local council immediately but then take the receipt to their unit pay office at the local barracks where they will be reimbursed in full by the Ministry of Defence."

Labour had argued that service personnel deployed to the Gulf should be exempted because they were risking their lives for their country. David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said yesterday: "Once again Mr Heseltine has got himself into a twist over the poll tax."

WHITEHALL BRIEF: Richard Ford

Mandarins show a little enterprise

THE traditional language of civil service mandarins has become infused with the jargon of the market place. Phrases such as customer-friendly and performance targets pepper the conversation of civil servants anxious to show that Whitehall is introducing private sector disciplines into some of its work, particularly areas at the forefront of revenue-raising and providing services to the public.

It is not just a matter of aping the enterprise culture so enthusiastically endorsed by its political masters during the last 12 years. Conservative and Labour governments have been anxious to break down the mutual ignorance which separates Whitehall and the business community by bringing the two worlds closer together.

Efforts to improve understanding between the two

ment and Whitehall.

The business world praises the traditional civil service skills of writing papers, preparing solutions to problems and trying to force longer term obstacles and difficulties. Such talents can, however, prove counter-productive in the corporate world where caution can often stifle initiative.

David Taylor, managing director of Amec regeneration, a company which has employed civil servants on secondment said: "They often have a more strategic approach to developments and in discussion bring a rationality that in business is often missing. If you want to go from A to C, as it were, the civil servant always goes via B but a businessman might go for broke and go to C. You might fall flat on your face but that is what enterprising flair is about and it entails a risk of failure."

Dinah Nicholls, a deputy secretary at the environment department who was a non-executive director with a John Laing subsidiary, said she had learned the importance of speed and flexibility in responding to problems.

Her work with John Laing taught her the value of keeping rigorously to a timetable for decisions. "If in business the bottom line is £1 million you have to look at your figures every month. You have to look at them on the fourth Friday of the month."

"We quite often do not stick to a rigorous timetable like that. We never quite know what money we are dealing with. If the civil service is going to be better at managing we will have to say 'we are going to take a decision on Friday' and, more importantly, stick to it rather than delaying until the following week."

But business too must play its part. The number of secondments from business to the civil service was only 195 in 1989.

As one businessman said: "The problem with too many industrialists is that they don't bother to get their foot in the water to get to know these people, make contact with them and see that they too can learn from Whitehall."



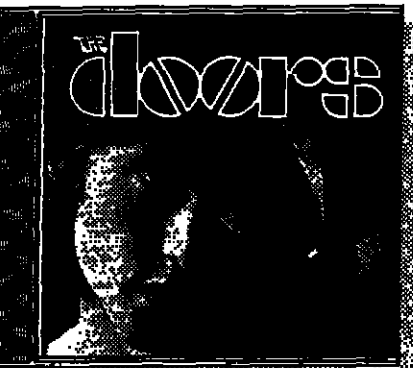
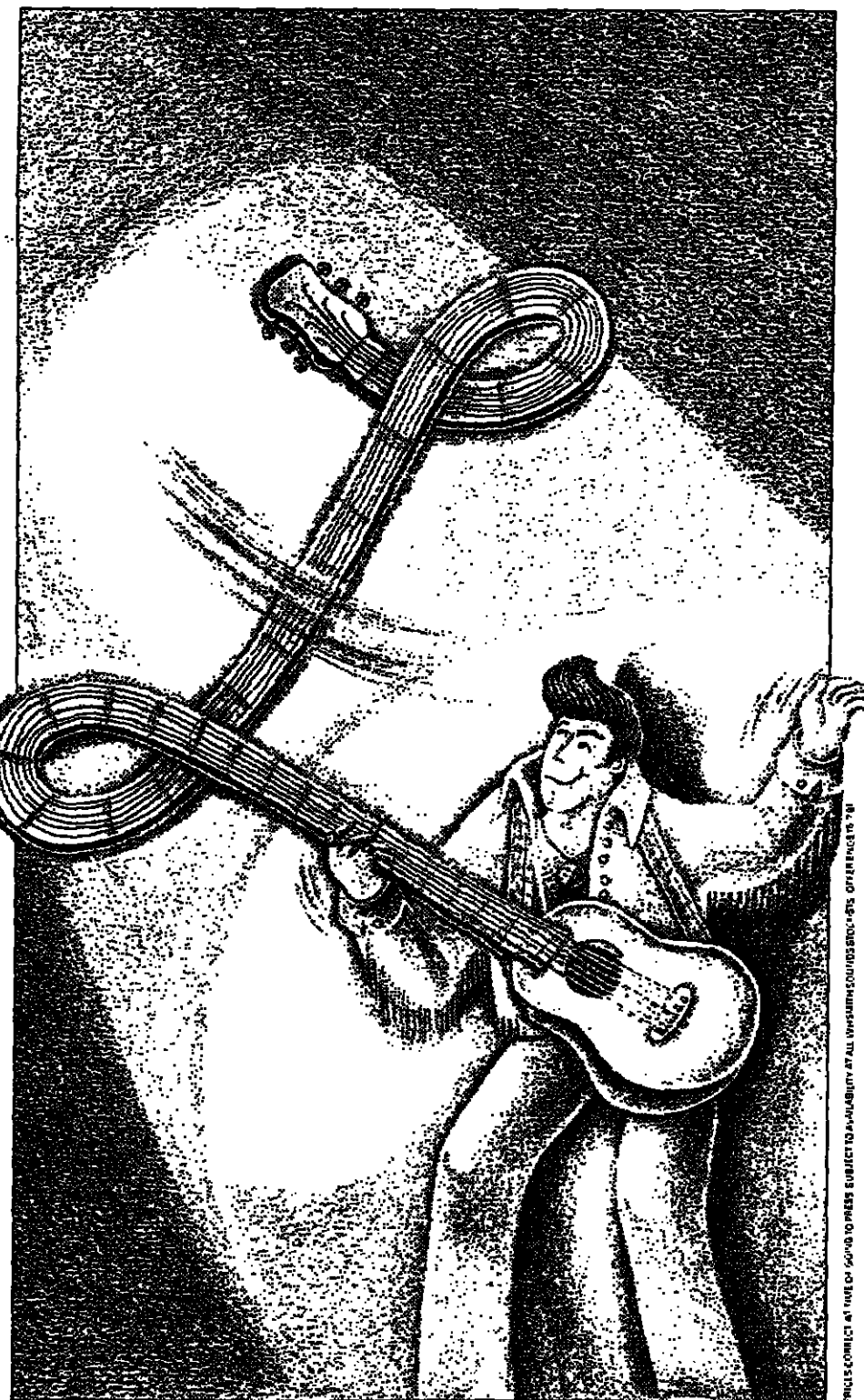
Nicholls: "civil servants must keep to timetables"

sectors have been under way since 1968 with 63 secondments to industry and commerce in 1977, rising to 432 in 1989. Although there have been attempts to boost the number of civil servants undertaking secondments and becoming non-executive directors with commercial organisations, there is disappointment in Whitehall at the scale of the initiative and hopes that it can be expanded further.

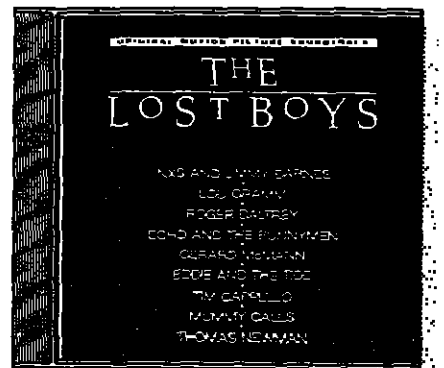
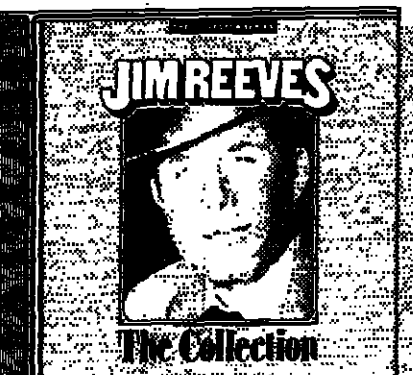
Mutual incomprehension between the two sectors remains strong, with industry criticised for paying little attention to policy-making and having too little understanding of the complexity of administering a country. One civil servant said: "It is depressing how ignorant people at the top of industry are about govern-

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Tories will launch detailed costing of Labour policies

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative party will launch a detailed costing of the Labour party's policies tomorrow as it fights to pull back its ten-point deficit in the opinion polls.

In a repetition of the exercise conducted by John MacGregor, then Treasury chief secretary, shortly before the 1987 election, ministers are preparing to challenge Labour to say how it would pay for its spending pledges. If it fails to do so, the Conservatives will say that the pledges are worthless.

In an attempt to preempt what it says will be a "campaign of misinformation and disinformation", Labour is planning to challenge John Major and other members of the cabinet to take part in live television debates with Neil Kinnock and their Labour shadows. Labour will propose a head-to-head contest between Mr Major and Mr Kinnock similar to those between American presidential candidates. The party will throw down the gauntlet tomorrow as the Conservatives launch

their fresh attack on Labour's spending plans.

Conservative strategists believe the costing exercise to be one of their main weapons in the election campaign. It has been spearheaded by David Mellor, Treasury chief secretary, who will launch the assault with Chris Patten, the party chairman.

As with Mr MacGregor's exercise in early 1987, seen as one of the main factors in the Conservative election success, government departments have been asked to provide the cost implications of proposals that appear in Labour's main policy documents, *Meet the Challenge*, *Make the Change*, *Looking to the Future* and this year's *Opportunity Britain*.

Labour's only specific pledges are to improve pensions by £5 a week and to restore the value of child benefit, but the Tories have claimed that its policy documents are littered with unquantified proposals.

The Conservative launch will be accompanied by a

party political broadcast tomorrow night. Labour will try to turn the spotlight immediately on to its hopes for television debates in the run-up to the election. Party strategists are hoping particularly that contests can be staged between Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, and William Waldegrave, Jack Straw, the shadow education secretary, and Kenneth Clarke, and Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, and Michael Howard.

Mr Major and Mr Kinnock clashed in the Commons yesterday over the latest output figures showing a 0.5 per cent drop in April. Mr Kinnock told the prime minister that by persevering with high interest rate policies "you are making your recession deeper and longer, and causing a permanent loss of capacity to industry".

The prime minister said that the best possible future for manufacturing would come from an economy with the lowest possible inflation and the prospect of growth.



Taylor: price rises at a time of scandals profits

Taylor attacks 'outrageous' water price rises

By PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

LABOUR castigated the water companies yesterday for big price increases to customers and renewed its pledge to take the industry back into public ownership.

Ann Taylor, a shadow environment spokesman, said that there was "outrage at vastly increased water bills at a time of scandalous profits and massive leaps in salaries for top management".

Tony Baldry, junior environment minister, said that privatisation had not, of itself, caused higher water charges.

Mrs Taylor used a debate in the Commons to condemn the privatisation of water by a government which, she said, "cared little for consumers just as it cared little for the environment". She described rising bills, a doubling of salaries for top management who had been given share perks worth £10 million at privatisation, and a failure by the companies to meet investment targets despite diversifying into other areas.

She juxtaposed those events with promises about price benefits for consumers from ministers at the time of privatisation and said: "We

have seen water charges increase by 30 per cent on average, with every company forcing price rises to their maximum on virtually every occasion, so that in the last three years increases have amounted to more than 50 per cent for some consumers."

Water bills, once a minor item, were now causing great hardship to many families, yet profits had rocketed: 185 per cent at North West Water, 224 per cent at Welsh Water and 369 per cent predicted at Northumbria. "These figures are so staggering that they really need little further comment, but they must be seen as a slap in the face for all consumers", she said.

One company was buying hotels and another was trying to take part in a television franchise, but none of them had met their investment targets in any area involving water. "The public are fed up with the excesses of this government. All of our worst fears at the time of privatisation have been confirmed, or worse", she said.

Rationalisation "cannot happen on day one of a Labour government", but the interests of the consumer and the environment would be put before those of shareholders.

Mr Baldry said that, while Labour had failed to finance investment, privatisation had opened the way for dramatic and sustained increases. Over the next 10 years companies would be carrying out the biggest programme of sustained investment that the industry had yet seen.

Labour, it appeared, would have preferred the companies to make losses. What concerned most people was not the level of profits but the price of water. Water bills in the Midlands, for example, had recently risen by an average of 5p a day to 38p and on average consumers were paying 43p a day for their water.

Privatisation had not, of itself, caused an increase in charges but had involved identifying all the requirements to ensure that the industry met agreed domestic and European Community standards.

The overall quality of drinking water was excellent, but to ensure that all water supplies satisfied EC standards, the industry was investing more than £2 billion so that supplies were brought into compliance by 1995. Billions of pounds were also being spent on improving sewage treatment.

Plea on prices, page 21
Background, page 23

More union reforms

THE government is planning to produce a green paper on further trade union reforms which will propose a seven day "cooling off period" before strikes are called in the public services (Robin Oakley writes).

Urged by a Tory MP, Tim Smith (Beaconsfield), to introduce further legislation to protect consumers from strikes called "overnight", John Major confirmed at question time yesterday that the government was looking at ways of doing so. Officials said later that a green paper was expected to be published before the end of next month. No date has been fixed for legislation.



EC plan may be threat to research

The draft EC directive on advertising of medicines should not be allowed to restrict the sponsorship that the pharmaceutical industry provides for research projects and conferences, Stephen Dorrell, health minister, said at question time. The directive was broadly consistent with UK legislation.

Mr Michael Irvine, Tory MP for Ipswich, said pharmaceutical companies made a big contribution to postgraduate medical education and in its present form the directive would restrict considerably the ability of pharmaceutical companies to continue to provide cash funding. The directive was a threat to the funding of postgraduate medical education.

More students

Students numbers in further and higher education continue to grow steadily, according to figures in a written reply from Alan Howarth, education under secretary. Provisional figures show a 10 per cent increase in enrolments this academic year compared with the previous year, and applications for places next year are up by 8.1 per cent.

New peer



Meghnad Desai (above), professor of Economics at the London School of Economics, was introduced in the Lords as Lord Desai and took his seat on the Labour benches.

Boat people

There are 59,504 Vietnamese migrants in Hong Kong, Mark Lennox-Boyd, Foreign Office under secretary, said in a written reply. Last year, 6,599 migrants arrived in the colony and so far this year there have been a further 10,786.

Lloyd's lobby

John Hughes, Labour MP for Coventry North East, lost his opportunity to introduce a bill to ease the controls on the immigration of children because he was not in the chamber when called. He said later that he had been delayed by Tory MPs and others lobbying him on the Lloyd's question.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland, Planning and compensation bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debate on manufacturing industry.

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Homeless policy attacked by MPs

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's "continued policy of dumping homeless families in temporary lodgings" was condemned by MPs yesterday as reprehensible.

The Tory-led Commons environment committee also called for fresh efforts to cut the number of people sleeping rough in the streets of London and other big cities before next winter.

After combing through the environment department's 1991-2 spending plans, the committee conceded that, after it had complained for three years at the rise in the number of families in bed and breakfast accommodation, the figures appeared to be coming down this year. The department disclosed that 45,170 families had been placed in temporary accommodation last year in England compared to 37,900 families in 1989.

This year more families were being housed in other types of short-term housing, such as private homes leased from owners. The chairman, Tory MP Sir Hugh Rossi, said yesterday:

"The dumping of families in bed and breakfast and other forms of temporary accommodation is condemned as being a reprehensible feature of current housing policies. With increasing impatience we have renewed our call for the department to ensure that councils deal more effectively with families' short-term accommodation needs and to enable councils to spend money on the rehabilitation of empty properties instead of throwing it away on bed and breakfast."

The MPs also said that they had lost patience with local authorities that run up huge rent arrears. They recommended government action to enforce a duty on councils to collect the backlog. Good tenants had to bear the cost of those who did not pay their rent, they said.

House of Commons environment committee fourth report: *DoE, Property Holdings and PSA Services Estimates 1991-2 and DoE Annual Report 1991* (Stationery Office: £13.50).

Letters, page 15

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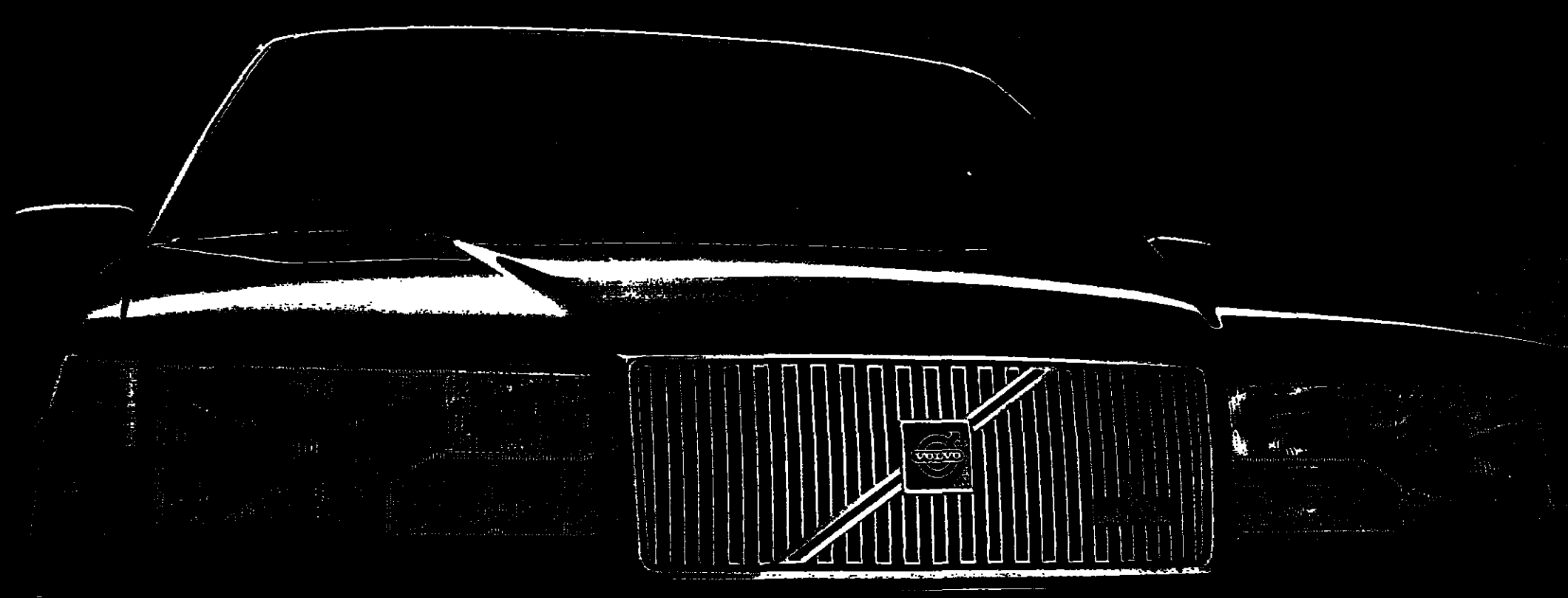
EC plan
may be
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More student

New post



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Not that he was talking about the new 2 Litre Turbo Volvo 940 SE, of course.

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Falling below both the £19,250 and the 2 litre tax limits, the 940 Turbo also offers protection from the Inland Revenue.

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Waldheim, prisoner president, dreams of a second term



Waldheim: mission to Iraq won him domestic support

SHUNNED by politicians from West and East, President Waldheim is the loneliest of leaders. The Austrian head of state has not so much grown as withered in office, and yet his aides say he is actively considering a new term.

Dr Waldheim, aged 72, has just been given an opportunity to demonstrate that despite his continuing presence on the American watch list, he is not a Nazi. Jörg Haider, the youthful right-wing leader of the opposition Freedom party, recently suggested that the employment policies of the Third Reich were a useful model for Austria. Herr Haider, who was ready to support President Waldheim's re-election, was immediately disowned. The president said, in one of his clearest-ever statements: "Nothing from the time of National Socialism can serve as an example for the Austria of today."

Austrians believe their president, cleared of war crimes claims by an enquiry, has had a raw deal. Roger Boyes and Brenda Fowler report from Vienna on his international isolation

Since Dr Waldheim's election in 1986 — by 54 per cent of the vote — one of the primary goals, and notable failures, of Austrian diplomacy has been to gain an invitation for their president. Dr Waldheim has important international connections from his days as United Nations secretary-general, but during five years in office only a scattering of Islamic countries have entertained him.

The United States is off limits and West European leaders visiting Austria tend to avoid Vienna and thus by-pass the protocol of shaking Dr Waldheim's hand.

Dr Waldheim's closed group of advisers, who call him UHBP —

Unser Herr Bundespräsident — are naturally concerned that their leader has had a bad deal. The very thorough enquiry into Dr Waldheim's past did not show him to be a war criminal. An international historian's commission, in a highly competent report, showed that the president concealed facts about his service as a German army intelligence officer in the Balkans and showed, too, that he must have been aware of war crimes committed by his unit. The Austrians felt that the world was ganging up on them, and Dr Waldheim, on the crest of a xenophobic wave, was swept into

office. The Austrian political class, however, is divided into those who continue to believe the president is a bright, if misunderstood diplomatic talent, and those who regard him as an embarrassment. Austrians as a whole have a rather more benign view of their leader, notwithstanding his personal frugality. The president's mercy trip to Saddam Hussein last August secured him a planeload of Austrian hostages and a boost in domestic popularity.

Now President Waldheim does not want to surrender easily and slip into a pension. A few years ago he was asked if he would run again and he replied: "Look, I'll soon be 70 years old; you develop a certain wisdom with age." This sphynx-like comment was seized upon by both the ruling socialists and his own conservatives as a sign that he would not bid for a

second term. The presidential election is next year. Whoever becomes president must lead Austria into the European Community and develop the country as an East-West bridge. In a brainstorming session with his advisers, Dr Waldheim made quite plain recently that he thought he was still the man for the job. Instead of announcing his retirement, and thus allowing his party to start shaping a new candidate, there has been nothing but silence from the Hofburg. His aides promise an announcement in July. Dr Waldheim's conservatives are in a real dilemma. If they give way to international opinion and try to lever out Dr Waldheim, they run a high risk of losing the presidential election, and that, just before parliamentary elections, would be a bad, perhaps fatal, omen. But even the socialists are furious.

The only man who can win against President Waldheim is the present chancellor, Franz Vranitzky, but he wants to stay in place and lead his party to victory in the general election. If he were to become president, he would be removed from the game.

The president said recently: "I will do what is best for my country." Perhaps Dr Waldheim can persuade the Americans and others that his past was inoffensive, seek rehabilitation and lead Austria with the moral persuasion of, for example, President von Weizsäcker of Germany. Perhaps, but it is difficult to find anybody in Vienna who regards this as more than self-delusion from the Hofburg, a fairytale concocted by a solitary leader who, thanks to an almost impenetrable boycott by the international community, is a prisoner in his palace.

Baker unveils support for Soviet drive to reform

FROM MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN BERLIN

THE greatest challenge facing the West is to extend the transatlantic community to the Soviet Union, James Baker, the American Secretary of State, said yesterday.

Speaking on the eve of the first meeting of 34 foreign ministers from East and West Europe and North America since the Paris summit last November, Mr Baker said that the new architecture of Europe would be incomplete as long as the Soviet Union hesitated on the outside.

He welcomed as "a good start" the recent elections in Russia, but said the transformation of the Soviet Union would inevitably have its ups and downs. "It should be our on-going objective, however, to reassure and even buttress this homegrown Soviet effort. It is in the interest of the Soviet people to embrace a

real market economy, democracy and the rule of law. It is in our interest to support them."

His call came amid warnings that the end of the Cold War had led to the re-emergence of ethnicity as a powerful force which threatened divisions and instability in such countries as Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

"These forces cast shadows over the new democracy," he said. "We need to offer an inspiration, even a goal, to these people — rediscovering new values on which they can build pluralistic, democratic and free market societies. Bodies such as Nato, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Community and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) which bound Europe and North America, should focus on promoting a Europe whole and free and a Euro-Atlantic community that extends east from Vancouver to Vladivostok."

Declaring that the United States had a special role to play in supporting Soviet change, he announced a package of initiatives that will do much to warm the atmosphere before President Gorbachev's visit to London during the G7 summit next month. These include support for Soviet association with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, US backing for investment in Soviet energy resources, help to improve food distribution and convert Soviet defence industries for peaceful use, technical co-operation, more trade and the extra \$1.5 billion grain credit announced last week.

"The door to the Euro-Atlantic community is open. But only the Soviets can decide to step over the threshold." His address to the Aspen Institute, a private study group, came as foreign ministers arrived for two days of intensive discussion on how European security can be reinforced as the old, competing structures disappear.

The Americans want CSCE to take the initiative in institutionalising transparency in military affairs, including an "open skies" treaty, preventing conflict in Europe by fact-finding missions and peacekeeping forces that could be used in regions such as the Balkans; and stopping the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and the massive export of conventional weapons.

But the meeting threatened to get off to a poor start after Russia vetoed participation in the main sessions of the three Baltic republics.

When he was first charged, Mr Urban said he was overjoyed because it would bring him more readers. The prosecutor then dropped the case but Mr Urban appealed against the decision and a higher court subsequently renewed the charge. If he is found guilty, Mr Urban could be sentenced to up to two years in jail.

Yesterday, as he entered the courtroom, his supporters gave him a standing ovation. But they protested when Judge Krzysztof Sulik announced that the trial would be closed to the public. Spectators yelled "inquisition" and "there is no freedom", as police cleared the courtroom.

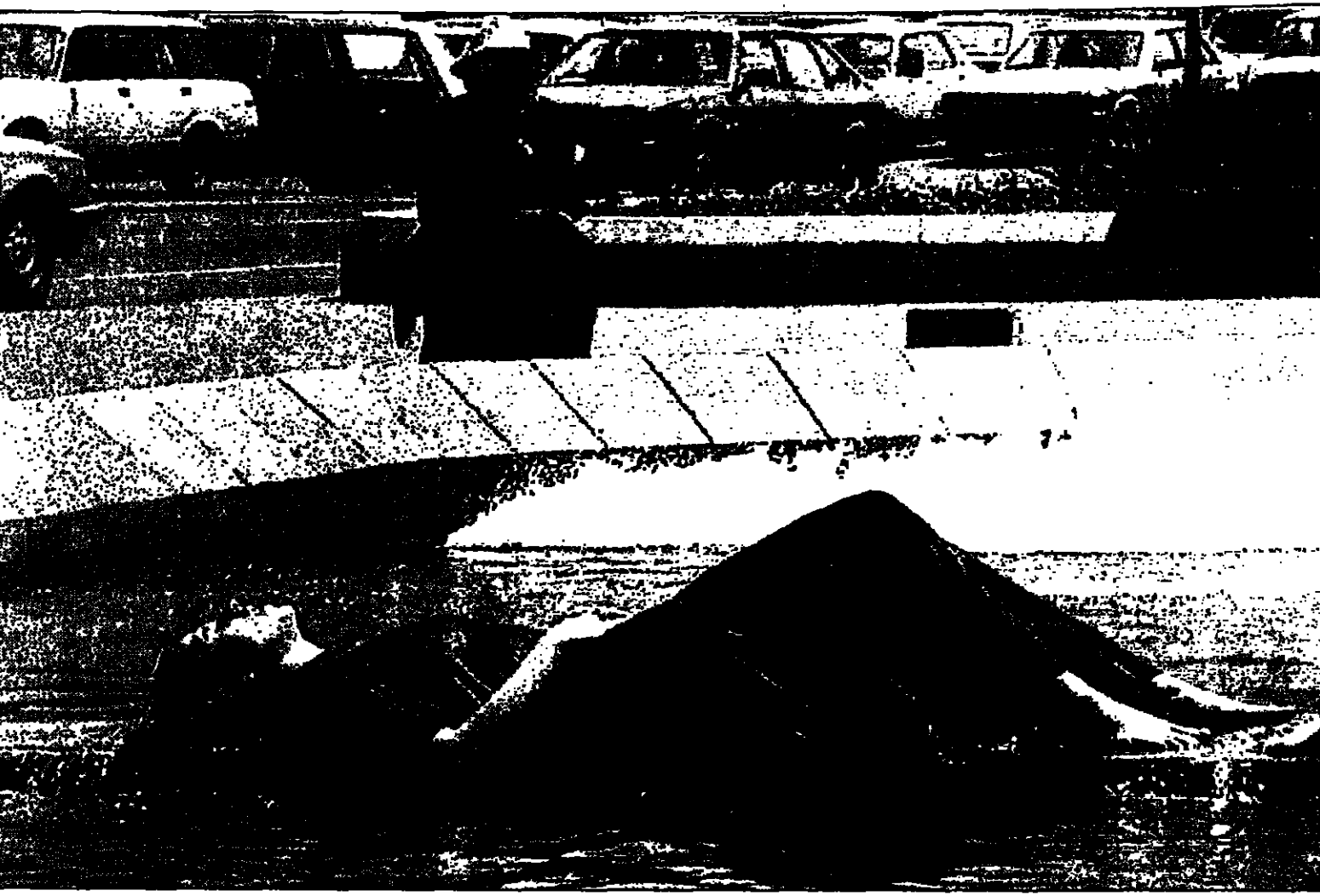
One old lady shouted, "Urban writes the truth, and I am ready to go to jail for him." Mr Urban also condemned the judge's decision.



Urban: thought trial would boost readership

IN AN appeal to the British sense of sportsmanship, Edith Cresson yesterday hit back at the use by the Observer newspaper of a four-year-old interview in which she accused British men of lacking a healthy sexual interest in women, and more besides.

Some newspapers here were sniping gleefully at her indiscretions. *Le Quotidien* noted that Britain had *La Dame de fer*, and France now has *La Dame vulgaire*. The French prime minister herself took to the radio to declare that she considered last Sunday's publication of her conversation with Naim Attallah was hardly in the tradition of "le fair



Laid back: a woman soaking up the sun yesterday in the cool waters of a city fountain as Belgrade temperatures soared to a record 95F (35C)

Britons not the only doubters as Europe marches towards unity

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is not alone in its scepticism towards the integration of Europe, figures provided by the European Community's statistics agency show. If anything, the Danes are even more dubious about the grand ideas of Jacques Delors, the European Commission president.

In May 67 per cent of Danes questioned in a Eurobarometer opinion poll rejected the idea of a central European bank and a common currency. In comparison, 55 per cent of Britons questioned were against European monetary union. Those most disposed towards EMU were the Irish, with 81 per cent approving. Not far behind were the French, with 79 per cent of those questioned saying they wanted EMU. The Germans were not so sure, with 52 per cent in favour and 42 per cent against.

Eurobarometer is compiled by the Luxembourg-based Eurostat agency. Each question on the destiny of Europe is put to 2,000 people above the age of 15 in member countries. The agency also records changes in attitudes towards Europe. Despite the recent poll, the Danes are becoming more favourably disposed towards the EC in general: in March 42 per cent of them said they would be "very sorry" if the EC disappeared altogether. Last autumn only 35 per cent said they would rue its demise.

Those interviewed favoured the expansion of the EC. Eurobarometer found that 92 per cent of Danes questioned would like to see Austria become a member of the community "within the next five or ten years."

Support for Switzerland, Austria and the Nordic countries becoming members is high, with over 80 per cent in

favour, but enthusiasm is less marked for former eastern bloc countries. Of Greeks questioned, 99 per cent said they did not want Turkey to join the EC. It is the least popular potential new member, together with Albania.

Although public opinion in Belgium is generally favourable to the goals of M Delors, Vlaams Blok, the right-wing Flemish party, yesterday reminded people that not all Belgians are proud of the growing international stature of their capital. "Brussels should not be the capital of Europe," said Gerolf Annemans, who is one of two Vlaams Blok MPs.

"The input of European citizens is dangerous for the Flemish identity of the city," he said. He added that Luxembourg and Strasbourg should retain their European institutions, and that a "more concentric" capital should be found, such as Vienna, for the enlarged EC of the future.

Others coming round to a more pro-Europe attitude are the Spanish and Portuguese, of whom 54 per cent and 50 per cent respectively now support the EC. Danish and British public opinion on Europe appears to differ significantly only on a common foreign policy: 67 per cent of Britons questioned thought it a good idea, while the Danes were again at the bottom of the list, with only 46 per cent for a common policy. Those most in favour of the idea were the Germans, with 84 per cent.

As far as awareness of the EMU debate goes, Britain is out in the lead. 91 per cent of Britons were aware of the problem when questioned last month. Eurobarometer said, admitting that in Britain the EMU idea "has caused some controversy." In contrast 27 per cent of Dutch people questioned said they had never heard of EMU.

● Luxembourg: EC trade ministers agreed yesterday to abolish routine checks on the baggage of people travelling within the community. The decision was one of several to harmonise laws of EC countries before the official introduction of a single market on January 1, 1993.

Diplomats emphasised that individual EC countries would retain the right to make checks.

A European political union with a common defence policy.

Those who have heard of the EMU debate (yes or no)

Yes No

Belgium 80 17

Denmark 46 54

Germany 74 23

Greece 69 24

Spain 82 15

France 79 21

Ireland 92 16

Italy 79 19

Luxembourg 76 23

Netherlands 71 27

Portugal 87 10

Britain 91 9

For/against a European central bank and a common currency:

For Against

Belgium 78 16

Denmark 33 67

Germany 52 42

Greece 77 22

Spain 64 16

France 79 15

Ireland 68 19

Italy 81 11

Luxembourg 71 29

Netherlands 56 34

Portugal 73 19

Britain 39 55

The difference between the totals of for and against and 100 gives the percentage of don't knows.

All figures from Eurobarometer, May 1991

Thatcher plays on US fears

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

MARGARET Thatcher is unashamedly courting American support in her crusade against Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission.

Lengthy passages of her big Chicago speech on Monday night denounced the inequities of M Delors' plans for a United States of Europe, but she emphasised less the well-rehearsed threat to British sovereignty than arguments designed to whip up American fears and sentiments. A federal Europe would threaten Nato, especially if trade wars soured relations, she said.

Nato is Washington's principal means of practising power politics across the Atlantic.

The EC's "perennial protectionist temptation" raised the bogey of a Fortress Europa, she claimed. That would divide the world into three great regional economic blocs and shatter hopes of global free trade.

M Delors and his cronies would erect a "wall" in place of the Berlin wall to exclude the impoverished nations of Eastern Europe. They feared those post-communist nations, for whom many Americans feel an affinity, would reject European Community insistence on centralised bureaucracy at the expense of national sovereignty.

Sovereignty, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Kohl trip to heal wounds of Russia

Moscow — Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, is planning to pay a brief visit to Moscow later this week in a grand gesture of reconciliation 50 years after the start of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. The anniversary of "Operation Barbarossa", which falls on Saturday, is one of the most sensitive dates in the Soviet calendar especially since German reunification (Mary Dejevsky writes).

According to President Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, Chancellor Kohl is expected in Moscow for a short visit sometime before Saturday. He said, however, that the visit might have to be postponed in view of Herr Kohl's domestic political difficulties.

A joint Soviet-German memorial concert is to be held in Moscow to mark the anniversary, as well as numerous veterans' meetings and public appeals. The most recent Soviet estimate of its losses in the second world war was issued yesterday by a deputy chief of the Soviet general staff, Colonel-General Grigori Krivosheev, who put the number of dead and missing at 8.6 million, including those who died later from their wounds.

Ex-minister in car sale enquiry

Berlin — Horst Gibrner, a former transport minister in the East German government and now an MP in the ruling Christian Democratic Union, is being investigated after the discovery that his ministry sold state-owned cars at knock-down prices.

Pay rise refused



Petre Roman the Romanian prime minister, rejected wage demands by striking workers who have shut one of the capital's largest industrial plants. He met workers at the Faur engineering plant after 10,000 workers staged a protest march through Bucharest on Monday. (AFP)

Lightning break

Warsaw — Television screens went blank for eight minutes and much of the Polish capital was without electricity for more than an hour last night after lightning struck a Warsaw power station. Firemen said they received dozens of calls to put out fires in houses hit by lightning during torrential rain. (Reuters)

Camp raiders

Warsaw — Three men were arrested at the former Sobibor Nazi death camp in eastern Poland when they were discovered using a metal detector to search for jewellery. They were found near the graves of some of the 250,000 people estimated to have died at the camp during the second world war. (AFP)

Steeple space

Arnhem — City fathers are trying to rent out for advertising the largest church steeple in this Dutch town, famed for its second world war battle. In an effort to raise funds to restore the 15th-century St Eusebius Church, steeple space is on offer for three years for about £900,000. (AFP)

La dame vulgaire begs for a little English fair play

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

IN AN appeal to the British sense of sportsmanship, Edith Cresson yesterday hit back at the use by the Observer newspaper of a four-year-old interview in which she accused British men of lacking a healthy sexual interest in women, and more besides.

Some newspapers here were sniping gleefully at her indiscretions. *Le Quotidien* noted that Britain had *La Dame de fer*, and France now has *La Dame vulgaire*. The French prime minister herself took to the radio to declare that she considered last Sunday's publication of her conversation with Naim Attallah was hardly in the tradition of "le fair

play". She said: "If this conversation took place, I was not only not prime minister, I was not even in the government." If Mr Attallah had been so interested in her remarks, why did he not use them in the book he was then preparing? "I have nothing to add to this so-called interview that has been taken out of a drawer."

Mme Cresson was also at pains to emphasise how fond she was of England and, indeed, the English language (which she speaks fluently). As for English men, "they are certainly more reserved in their behaviour towards women than the French, but each country has its traditions and culture."

Although the prime minister's

office had at first tried to deny that the interview ever took place, Mme Cresson was more circumspect. "I don't remember receiving him... maybe I had a conversation with an English journalist because I had lots of conversations with them." Despite the brouhaha, which will soon be forgotten on this side of the Channel, at least Mme Cresson made it clear that she will continue to speak her combative mind to the press when the mood takes her. "I tell journalists frankly what I think, because I think that is best for all concerned," she said.

In London, Donald Treford, the editor of *The Observer*, said last night: "Since hearing Mme Cresson's doubts about the inter-

view we have made it our business to establish the facts. She gave the interview to Naim Attallah at 11.30 am on Wednesday, 27 September, 1987, at her then office in Boulevard Saint Germain.

"It was taped and there are independent witnesses to the fact that the meeting took place. The interview lasted just over an hour so there can be no room for doubt about its authenticity. Whether it was fair play to publish it now is another matter. Personally, I don't see what she objects to. If she said these things she presumably stands by them. If she has changed her mind, she can say so."

● Tokyo: Several right-wing Japanese groups have gone to the French

embassy to demand an apology from Mme Cresson over her remarks about Japanese trading practices, but there had been no trouble so far, police said yesterday. Since her appointment, the prime minister has repeatedly accused Japan of wanting to conquer the world, saying it had taken over the world's photographic industry, forced its own people to pay high prices at home to finance cheap exports, and sealed off the domestic market to foreign competition.

The police said that, despite the protests, security had not been tightened at the embassy in central Tokyo and there were no requests from the French to strengthen the guard. (Reuters)

Iraq resists pressure from UN to pay for weapons destruction

By JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AS IRAQ yesterday resisted moves forcing it to pay hundreds of millions of pounds for the destruction of its unconventional weapons, Iran exacerbated another problem stemming from the Gulf war by moving thousands of Kurdish refugees in areas near the Iraqi border to remote regions, apparently making them hostages to fortune.

Under the latest United Nations resolution on the Gulf, the secretary-general has 30 days to recommend how Iraq might pay for the arms operation. The demand has drawn criticism from Baghdad. "We don't see any justification for calling on Iraq to bear the responsibility of paying for the destruction of

weapons," the Iraqi chargé d'affaires at the United Nations, Samir al-Nima, told the security council before the resolution was adopted on Monday night. The movement of Kurds by Iran prompted appeals by Kurdish leaders yesterday. "We're very worried about it," said Jalal Talabani, the Kurdish leader, speaking from Istanbul. "and we have appealed to the Iranian government to delay."

Allies search for face-saving exit from Kurd haven

America and Britain fought for the glory of protecting the Kurds. Now each wonders how it can bring its forces home. Peter Stothard reports from Washington

"OUR aid programme for the Kurds has become a game of surreal musical chairs," a senior Western diplomat said the other day. "Everyone wants to lose, no one wants to be the last player left when the music finally stops."

Representatives of the coalition governments in Operation Provide Comfort are eyeing each other nervously these days. After the war, Washington and London fought for the glory of providing a safe haven for the Kurdish victims of President Saddam Hussein. Now each wonders how it can bring its forces home without being judged responsible for the bloodshed which could so easily follow departure.

Some members of the Bush administration, still stung by John Major's determination to win the "glory war" in March, think there would be some justice in Britain being last to leave the relief party. The British are anxious to avoid any such "victory".

The American military remains determined to end quickly a mission which it sees as unfocused and potentially the "quagmire" which the post-Vietnam Pentagon wants to avoid at all costs. When Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke earlier this month of pulling out "sooner than we thought", he was expressing the best hopes of his men.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, while reassuring allies that General Powell's words had to be seen in context, has not disavowed the overall thrust of what he said. The State Department is actively exploring ways in which America's role can be reduced, not only by the slim chance of assembling a substantial United Nations force but by other means too.

The latest forum is the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe meeting in Berlin. The subject is likely to stretch throughout a summer of complex bargaining sessions, including the

London G7 summit. British, French and Dutch diplomats here all have an interest in ensuring their masters back home are not left in the lurch. The Pentagon does not distinguish between the very different natures of providing comfort and storming desert terrain. Last week the Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said that the operation was "a humanitarian aid mission" and "we have basically accomplished that mission". Asked about the American evacuation of Dahuk, he said the Kurds understood that the mission to make Dahuk "a more livable place" was "short-term" and had now been completed.

When Mr Williams is asked whether Kurds who helped the American relief effort might be treated as collaborators by Baghdad, he can express surprise at the very notion. "I don't know how anyone could accuse people of collaborating with the United States when all they were trying to do was to take care of their own people," he said. It is not his job to understand the mind of an Iraqi dictator.

The diplomats work to a different set of rules. Their role is first to attempt to modify Saddam's behaviour to his own people by means of sanctions; second, to encourage the dictator's removal by saying that relations will "never" be normalised while Saddam remains in power. Their third task is to find a way to avoid their political masters getting the blame for future disasters which all players see as highly likely.

That third task is assigned to Mr Baker. Indeed, it is a continuation of what has been the chief role of his life, to protect President Bush by bluff, bullying, or whatever else is required. Washingtonians do not, by and large, encourage playing poker with the Texan Secretary of State. He is said to be pretty good at musical chairs, too.

Leading article, page 15

But they have taken heart from the pledge by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that the Europeans will stick by their commitment to the protection of the zone and its 600,000 Kurds.

The Kurdish movement has appealed to Tehran to allow the refugees in Iran to stay in camps in traditionally Kurdish areas. At present they are being shipped either to the Azerbaijan area encompassed by Rasht and Tabriz, near the Caspian Sea in the north, or the city of Shiraz in the south. "In the Kurdish areas they have been supported by their Kurdish brothers, but when they are moved out they will not have enough to feed themselves," Mr Talabani said. The Kurds say that there are now up to a million of their fellow-countrymen in Iran, many of whom have fled across the border for a second time as the autonomy talks with Baghdad began to run into trouble.

Those talks are in difficulty over a proposed new constitution and the autonomous region for Kurds in north Iraq. The Kurds refuse to admit a further defeat at the hands of President Saddam Hussein and insist that negotiations will resume after a meeting of all interested Kurdish elements within the next week to ten days in the Kurdish area of north Iraq.

The sticking points are over continued Iraqi insistence on a Baathist monopoly of power and free elections to be followed by a constitutional referendum. "The Iraqis are insisting on a semi-democracy but with real power remaining with the dictatorship," Mr Talabani said. They are also insisting that virtually every town of significance in the northern Kurdish area is of vital importance to security and cannot be part of an autonomous region. "It was very difficult for us to go and talk to the government in Baghdad after the massacre of our people so it's difficult for us now to end the negotiations," Mr Talabani said.

Warriors of intifada taste the benefits of democracy

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN HEBRON

DEMOCRACY made a fleeting but unexpectedly smooth visit to this ancient city on the West Bank yesterday where for the first time in years election banners dominated the landscape instead of tear gas.

The polls, the first of several planned in the main Arab towns of the occupied territories, are the latest signs that the political violence of the past 3½ years of intifada is on the decline and that the Palestinian community is reappraising its position after the Gulf war. Yesterday more than 1,500 Hebronite merchants took part in the voting for eight seats in the municipal chamber of commerce.

The humble body is unlikely to have any direct impact on solving the Palestinian problem or ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, but Arabs and Israelis alike saw it as an important first step in settling the questions of

Palestinian political rights and as a symbolic event which could presage further elections in the occupied territories. If the Hebron polls are concluded smoothly, similar elections are planned for other towns on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"On one level these elections are merely to help develop the local economy," said Muhammad, aged 23, a student who like many young men were drawn to the polling station out of a sense of curiosity and expectancy for an event which has not taken place since Israel captured the occupied territories in 1967.

"However, on a political level it will not only show which parties are more powerful here — Fatah (the mainstream PLO group) or Hamas (the Muslim fundamentalist group) — but it will also be a symbol that full democratic elections can take place throughout the West Bank,"

he said. His comments were received with nodding agreement from other young men and appeared to signal a significant departure from the violent days of intifada warfare.

The theme was echoed by the director of Hebron's chamber of commerce, Sharif Sider. "Our problem is that the general belief is that we are terrorists, but now people can see we are different from our image, that we can be democratic."

His remarks will strike a chord among other middle-class merchants and professionals who have in the past weeks begun to criticise the seemingly self-defeating strategy adopted by the leaders of the intifada. In particular, there has been a groundswell of criticism against the death of 350 suspected Arab collaborators executed by young Palestinian hit men, and objections to strike calls.



Emergency rations: Filipinos driven from home by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption wait for food at a Manila stadium

Hurd insists on release of second British prisoner

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AS ONE British prisoner of the Iraqis began his journey to freedom last night, another could look forward only to a visit by his wife.

While Douglas Brand made the arduous road journey from Baghdad to Amman, after his release by the Iraqi government in response to appeals by Edward Heath, the former prime minister, Ian Richter was still in his tiny cell in the Abu Ghraib jail near the capital.

The official Iraqi news agency said that President Saddam Hussein had ordered

the release of Mr Brand and instructed authorities to "allow him to leave Iraq... to rejoin his family". The agency said that Saddam made the decision in "appreciation for the fair stands of the former British prime minister, Edward Heath, during the Gulf crisis". Mr Brand, aged 51, was sentenced to life imprisonment by an Iraqi court only last month.

But Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that the decision to free the British engineer, jailed for spying in 1986, was not enough to allow

the easing of United Nations sanctions against Saddam's government. Mr Hurd told the BBC that Britain also wanted Iraq to free Mr Richter.

A chemical engineer for Paterson Candy International Ltd, he was detained at Baghdad airport on June 18, 1986, and kept in solitary confinement by Iraqi security police, then taken before a revolutionary court. He was stripped to the waist and blindfolded and the court sentenced him to life imprisonment in February 1987. Although no charge was preferred, it was implied that he had paid commissions to the Baghdad mayor to further his business contracts. The allegation is denied.

Mr Richter's wife, Shirley, will travel to Baghdad soon, after being told by the Iraqi government that she will be allowed to see her husband.

● Kuwait City: A martial-law court sentenced seven stateless Arabs and one Iraqi to death yesterday for collaborating with Iraq's occupation forces. Six of those sentenced were still at large. A total of 21 people have been sentenced to death by hanging since the collaboration trials began on May 24. (Reuters)



Happy days: Rosemary Brand, in London to meet her husband, said she could hardly believe it

Gulf war meals sent to Manila

FROM VAUDINE ENGLAND IN MANILA

THE United States is to send one million ready-to-eat meals, left over from the Gulf war, to the Philippines to feed hundreds of thousands of people displaced by Mount Pinatubo's eruptions. The rations, known as Meals Ready to Eat, which are being shipped from the Gulf, will reach Manila by the weekend.

Philippine volcanologists are now recommending a reduction of the 25-mile danger zone round Mt Pinatubo to 12 miles since volcanic activity has declined to low-level ash emissions and minor tremors. Reports claiming that Mount Taal, a volcano on the outskirts of Manila, was becoming active were played down by the experts.

Initial government estimates of the damage caused reach 2 billion pesos (£44 million). The cost of rehabilitation and the effect on productivity will take this figure much higher, said Oscar Orbes, a government official. He said 185,000 Filipinos were affected and 165 evacuation centres were now open. Trucks are distributing water, and work is under way to restore electricity supplies.

Manila international airport continued to be closed to all aircraft and may remain so until the weekend.

As the evacuation of American dependants continued, an initial study of Subic Bay naval base showed conditions were difficult. The once sophisticated facility is covered in ash and buildings have been crushed. There are no power and water supplies.

If the American retreat is a permanent one, the economy of Angeles and Olongapo cities, which service the base, will collapse. "It would be like having an arm cut off if they did not come back," said Antonio Abad Santos, the mayor of Angeles City.

Algeria vows to suppress militants

Tunis — Algeria's new government, which replaces the one dismissed by President Chadli Benjedid two weeks ago after Muslim fundamentalist riots, took office yesterday and signalled its determination to keep up the army's pressure on Islamic militants (Penny Gibbins writes).

The decision by Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the new prime minister, to retain Major-General Khaled Nezzar as defence minister and Ali Benflis as justice minister shows that the new government intends to continue the work being carried out by the army on investigating the Islamic Salvation Front, the leading opposition party.

The prime minister has said that the government's priority will be to prepare for the postponed general elections, due to be held before the end of the year. Although he has not invited in any leading members of the main opposition parties, Mr Ghozali has formed a neutral government and has also created a ministry to take care of human rights.

Beirut blast

Jounieh — At least 21 people were injured when rockets and mortar shells sprayed over a residential area of north Beirut after an ammunition dump of the Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia blew up. Militiamen had been loading 130 mm howitzer shells into a lorry to be surrendered to the Lebanese army.

Jordan choice

Amman — Taher Masri, aged 49, the Jordanian foreign minister, has been named prime minister to replace Moudar Badran, who earlier tendered his resignation to King Hussein. Mr Masri, aged 49, is the first prime minister of Palestinian origin since 1970. (AFP)

Hunt for arms

Peking — Japanese diplomats and arms experts arrived in China to hunt for chemical weapons the imperial army may have abandoned at the end of the second world war. The search will focus on northern and northeastern China, which was ruled by the Imperial Japanese Army from 1931 to 1945. (Reuters)

Killer mudslide

Santiago — A mudslide after heavy rainfall killed at least 41 people in Antofagasta in northern Chile, Enrique Krauss, the interior minister, said. At least 650 people are missing. Police said they had recovered the bodies of 28 adults and 13 children from destroyed houses. (Reuters)

Smoking risk

Washington — Children who live in households with smokers are much more likely to be in fair to poor health than are children never exposed to cigarette smoke, according to an American government study by the National Centres for Health Statistics. (AP)

Bedroom blues

Bangkok — A young man dangled a motorcycle by his parents locked himself in his room and has stayed there for 22 years, prompting his parents to appeal for help in Thailand's Daily News. Dan Jaimun, aged 42, insists on meals being left outside the door and allows only his sister inside. (Reuters)

Congress battle lines form for the spoils of power

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

WITH the Congress (I) party certain of leading a minority or coalition government, the battle to become prime minister has begun. Without a member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty waiting to automatically step forward, it is a fight for the soul of India's predominant political force.

Parliament is due to assemble tomorrow and the team led by Rajiv Gandhi wants to appoint a non-threatening stopgap leader. P. Narasimha Rao, whom I chose as party president after Gandhi's assassination last month, is favoured. He is ill, elderly and has no political base. Therefore, he threatens no vested interests.

Those at the top of the party, many of them waiting to launch leadership bids, see him as a short-term incumbent who would not stand in their way. He did not run for parliament this time because of ill health. If he became prime minister he would have to fight an election within six months. But the Gandhi-

appointed insiders are being challenged by those who want to throw open the leadership question to wider opinion.

Many MPs and state Congress officials say the secretive, highly centralised Congress machine must become democratic. Internal party elections have not been held for 20 years.

Mr Both Gandhi and his mother, Indira Gandhi, promised to hold them but ultimately refused to devolve power. Those in charge of the party say that a "consensus" choice of parliamentary leader, in other words their choice, would prevent a damaging leadership contest at the outset of the government's formation. Most people outside the inner circle favour a secret ballot of MPs, which they say could be conducted speedily.

Some of Gandhi's men continue to look to the former prime minister's widow, Sonia Gandhi, to save them. A nod from her in support of a particular successor could be decisive. But her resolve to stay out of the fray seems

unshakable, a position that has brought a torrent of praise in newspaper editorials. The tactics of the Gandhi insiders, or "coterie", are held in contempt by most editorial writers.

Many Congress leaders, however, want to settle the long-term leadership question immediately. If that view prevails, the most serious contender will be Sharad Pawar, chief minister of the western state of Maharashtra. He has been brushing up his English and Hindi with a view to assuming national office. His position has been strengthened significantly by Congress's powerful electoral performance in his state.

As results continued to come in last night, it became clear that Congress has suffered a virtual rout in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which together comprise one-fifth of parliamentary seats. Even with the support of its two allies, the Muslim League and the Tamil Nadu regional party, it is likely to fall at least 25 seats short of a majority.

Trial judge shot dead in Karachi

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MASKED gunmen ambushed and killed a Pakistani judge trying the husband of the former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, yesterday. Judge Nabi Sher Junejo, his driver and a police bodyguard were killed in a hail of automatic fire as the judge was being driven from a Karachi court.

The judge's son was also in the car but escaped unhurt. "The ambush was so professional that they killed them within no time," the Sind's police chief said at a news conference. "The judge's bodyguard had no time to retaliate." No group claimed responsibility for the attack, giving rise to a spate of allegations by supporters and opponents of Miss Bhutto. Four gunmen were involved in the ambush.

Miss Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is standing trial on charges of conspiring to kill political opponents in Karachi last August. Mr Zardari, a member of the national assembly, was arrested in August.

Indian tribe plays a Trump card

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

DONALD Trump is having a tough enough time keeping his casinos out of bankruptcy without having to worry about a tribe of Indians. But a serious threat to Mr Trump's tottering Atlantic City business and America's legal gambling industry can be found in the rolling pine and maple forests of Connecticut, home to the tiny Pequot tribe.

Against the opposition of the governor and state officials, the Mashantucket Pequot have won federal approval to open the country's first Indian casino in the heart of their picturesque reservation. Only 120 miles up Long Island Sound from New York — a city of much vice but no casinos — the Pequot palace is expected to attract droves of Big Apple gamblers.

"This is a tremendous victory for Indian tribes throughout the United States," said Richard Hayward, the tribal chairman, after Washington rejected

an appeal by Lowell Weicker, the governor, to block the Indians' plans. The casino, financed with money from Malaysia and due to open in the autumn, represents something of a revenge on the white man.

Once one of the most powerful tribes of New England, the Pequots were all but exterminated in a campaign by European settlers in 1637. There are 150 left. Tribal economists are aiming to gross some \$80 million (£49 million) a year, a figure that has prompted angry state legislators to paint lurid visions of a crime-ridden "Wigwam Casino" and a "Kuwait of Connecticut" where super-rich Indians live it up on the backs of the poor.

Daniel Menihan, a reservation spokesman, scoffs at the critics. "They are envious of somebody trying to make themselves better financially," he said. "Casinos will help people to be able to raise their kids better." Proceeds from the casino will better the tribe,

providing schools and housing and museums. The Indians are also pointing out that Governor Weicker not only condones his state lottery, but owns racehorses.

The Pequot plan is being acclaimed as a breakthrough for native Americans.

In a closely watched experiment, Iowa last month licensed three old-style gambling riverboats on the Mississippi, while in Connecticut and a number of other states charities can run small-scale "Las Vegas nights". The Pequots won their casino rights by arguing that this entitled them to open a full-blown casino, one tastefully in keeping with the native spirit. A winding stream will bubble by the blackjack tables and traditional Pequot basket designs and wampum symbols will adorn the walls.



& BRIEFLY

Policies for pets

QUICK to capitalise on a trend Pet Plan, the UK's biggest animal health insurers, has launched a third party legal liability policy. It provides up to £2 million insurance cover for each animal, and costs £10 for one dog or £15 for up to three. For immediate cover, telephone (free) 0800 282250. Owners will be asked to provide a history of any previous incidents or claims made.

Fancy lots

A MOZART costume designed by Balenciaga in the Fifties for the Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton to wear at a Venetian ball goes under the hammer at Christie's at 2pm on Tuesday, July 2. Other historic costume lots include parliamentary robes, a pair of Chanel green suede gloves, and a William Morris coverlet. Details from Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD (071-581 7611).

VICTORIA MCKEE



Exercise of power: to Helen Gurley Brown, having it all did not include children

Which way to the promised land?

Working mothers, brace yourselves. A wave of hype is rolling towards you, with much breast-beating and emotional gesturing towards the Promised Land. If you are vulnerable to headlines such as "Is Your Career Robbing Your Kids?", beware. You have been targeted by a gang of ruthless publishers.

Maeva Haran is the hit-woman. She was until lately the producer of LWT's *Six O'Clock Show* and, she says, "the classic career woman, right down to the perfectly straight hem of my power suit". But she missed her children, and concluded sorrowfully that she was "a victim of that daunting new stereotype... baby in one hand and briefcase in the other". So she chucked the job and tried to write a sex 'n' shopping blockbuster. This failed (presumably because TV executives get so little time for either), and her agent suggested she write about something nearer home.

The result is *Having It All*—a novel about a TV executive who runs out on a vital meeting to cheer on her son in his school sack-race. Then she

Libby Purves on why a new novel by Maeva Haran (right) makes dismal reading for working mothers



try business she needs a new look: "softer, curvier... with a silk blouse in a heathery colour". All this has more to do with posing than with children's welfare. Never mind women, it degrades human beings.

Doing justice to children and a career is not easy. But then, nor is it easy to mix a job with a passion for ocean-racing or local politics. Adult mothers apply the same intelligence to their life as to their job. Any fool can see that small children will not thrive if they never know when they will see their mother, any fool can see the drawbacks of jobs without boundaries. Trapped, underpaid workers must suffer silently as they struggle home by public transport to the childminder, but executive women can use their money and clout to reorganise their schedules and hurry home.

In real life they do. A BBC news producer tells the story of meeting Harriet Harman, MP, on the train away from the Labour conference at Brighton the day before the big speeches. It turned out both women were dashing home—Ms Harman for a school function, the producer to treat her three children with louse shampoo. They were back by dawn. One manager celebrated her pregnancy by going to the MD with the information that he had three-quarters of a job vacancy just below her level, and offering to swap her full-time job for it. The undramatic truth is that women who genuinely value their children make the decision to give up time, money, and status; but not necessarily all of it.

When employers are inflexible, women go ingeniously independent. Not a lot of people know that cocktail guests at 10 Downing Street often get fed by a small, determined catering firm consisting of two women from Suffolk with seven children under ten. In Ms Haran's cartoon universe this company would be a million-pound property by now, its directors wearing power blouses and neglecting their babies. As it is, they were outside the school gates this morning looking—well, normal. Dishevelled, even.

But there probably isn't a book in it.

● *Having It All* is published on June 27 by Michael Joseph, price £13.99.

LOOKS LIKE CHEDDAR.
TASTES LIKE CHEDDAR.
HAND ON HEART,
IT ISN'T CHEDDAR.



Everyone knows that cheese is a valuable source of protein and calcium. What you may not be aware of is that every single pound of cheese is made from no less than one full gallon of milk.

So if you're trying to cut down on saturated fat, this latest offering from the Flora Food Company will come as good news.

Produced by a small dairy known for its prize-winning cheddars, it's made mostly from skimmed milk, plus a little whole milk and sunflower oil.

More importantly, most of the saturated fat is replaced with polyunsaturated vegetable oil.



Yet it has the same calcium and protein content as cheddar, so it's equally as nourishing. And equally as tasty, just try it in a ploughman's. You can also use it in cooking.

to top a pizza or grill it on toast.

Hand on heart, it isn't cheddar. Whatever your taste buds may tell you.

How to win on sports day

Embarrassing parental behaviour can damage your young athletes for life

As the school sports day season gets into full swing, not all parents realise that their own performance beside (and on) the sports track can make or break their children's reputations with classmates and teachers.

There are no written rules on the etiquette of sports day. Should one dress up or down in this inclement weather? Is it OK to stand at the finishing line with a camcorder to record the victorious moment? Should you crow or keep mum if your offspring pulls off all the prizes? In short, what is the ghastliest thing a parent can do?

A pale blue Rolls-Royce is the biggest faux pas, according to Charlotte Lewis, who has sent four children through the private system. "I've watched boys say 'How could he?' when their fathers have driven up in extremely smart cars. Aim for conformity. We've always had Volvos or Audis," Mrs Lewis says. "Similarly, boys love their mothers to look attractive, but cringe if an over-35-year-old turns up in a miniskirt and then perches on father's knee."

Fathers can carry off non-conformity somewhat better. Mrs Lewis recalls one flamboyant figure who would arrive at sports day with a travelling champagne bar in his Rolls. "He was a Pop Larkin figure and, amazingly, no one ridiculed him or his son, because he was so natural and obviously having a wonderful time."

Experience has taught the poet Pam Ayres to dress for comfort, not style. "I wouldn't turn up in jeans (which would let the boys down), but I wear

a warm skirt and jacket rather than something very smart. You can spot the new young mother a mile off by the way she tortures through the swads with spiked heels which sink in the mud at every pace."

There are probably no winners in the mothers' race, you have to choose between the humiliation of coming last, being dubbed a sportspony remaining staunchly in the spectators' stand, or revealing an unpleasant degree of naked aggression. Ms Ayres, who bowed out of this year's race with a gammy knee and whose husband, Dudley, was also a non-runner ("he's built for cunning rather than speed"), believes others are more competitive than they admit— "many probably practice at home."

"Difficult parents don't know what damage they can do to a child's reputation by behaving badly at these occasions," says Janet Jones, a primary school teacher. "The worse thing I've seen a parent do was to sneak into the competitors' enclosure and swap his child's trainers for spikes. She came first but was then disqualified."

Social graces, Mr Jones adds, are less important at state schools. In common with many others, Mrs Jones's school replaced traditional competitive sports with a *Knockout*-type game which are less discouraging for unsporty children, but this year her school is bringing back the old-style sports day—because parents like the competition.

JANE BIDDLE

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Winning, or losing face?

to the land?

Doctor Haydn

TWO hundred years ago next month, Oxford University awarded an honorary doctorate of music to the composer Franz Josef Haydn, whose reputation in England at that time probably exceeded even that of his contemporary, Mozart. The bicentenary will be marked on July 6, in the Sheldonian Theatre, with a performance of Haydn's oratorio, *The Creation*, in which the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will be conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras.

Tooning up

ANIMATION, once regarded as primarily for children, has suddenly become fashionable for grown-ups. Following the international success of *The Simpsons* and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, there are currently more



Betty Boop: animation art has a gallery

adult animated projects in production than ever before. Now comes news that London is to have the first gallery in Britain devoted to original animation art. Name That Toon, in Maddox Street, W1, opens tomorrow and will feature more than 200 original celluloids and drawings.

Last chance...

NEIL Bartlett's adaptation of Jean Rhys's short story about cultural disorientation - rowdy Caribbean girl meets English reserve and resentment in Fifties London - misses some of the original's subtlety and verges on a simplistic Black Pride tract. But in *Let Them Call It Jazz*, Pauline Black performs her monologue with intelligence, defiance and sympathy. Until Saturday at the Drill Hall, 16 Chancery Street, London WC1 (071-637 8270).

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Hard labour and a little insanity

Once publicly disgraced and imprisoned, Mischa Maisky, the Soviet cellist, finally escaped a system which turned viciously on its own rebellious children. He tells Richard Morrison the remarkable story

THE trial of Mischa Maisky, two decades ago, was a sensation. Never before had a Moscow Conservatoire student been accused of serious crimes. And Maisky was no ordinary student: the 22-year-old cellist was a Tchaikovsky Competition prize-winner, a star pupil of the great Rostropovich. "The court was completely full, many conservatoire students were standing at the back," says Maisky. "Some of my friends, like the cellist Natalia Gutman, spoke up for me, and that hurt them. Gutman wasn't allowed to tour the West for years because of her 'outrageous' attitude to the traitor Maisky."

Rostropovich, for once, could not intervene. "There had been a time when he could do anything," says Maisky. "It was unbelievable. He could pick up the phone and call Brezhnev direct." But Rostropovich was himself about to hurdle into a black hole of official disapproval: his bold criticism of the invasion of Czechoslovakia, his harbouring of Solzhenitsyn, his famous letter to *Pravda* in support of Sakharov. All this was leading inevitably towards his exile, five years later.

Maisky was alone, without any friends in high places. For a trumped-up currency violation, he was sentenced to 18 months. Seeing that the minimum mandatory sentence for that crime was three years, the convict regarded the sentence as a triumphant vindication of his innocence.

Nevertheless, the prison term seemed to spell the early death of a glittering career. Not only was he involuntarily separated from his instrument, he was also put to work in a forced labour gang, shovelling cement outside Gorky. "Five tons per person per day, to be shifted with a shovel: nice training for a cellist! The dust was choking. You couldn't see past two metres." At the end of each day, we were given half a litre of free milk. When they gave you free milk in Russia, you know the conditions are bad. This month, Maisky brings out a new recording of Elgar's Cello Concerto. It will undoubtedly infuriate some British music-lovers, and not just because the Riga-born, Brussels-based Israeli citizen has never been within a sniff of the Malvern hills. His interpretation, like his character, is wilfully different: blazingly passionate, provocatively peculiar. You either accept it as it is, or hate every minute. But Maisky has never been a conformist: that is what got him into hot water 20 years back.

The trouble began when his sister, a pianist, emigrated to Israel. The Soviet state had invested much in Maisky's future: the child

prodigy had been nurtured in special music schools in Riga and Leningrad for 12 years, then brought to Moscow to study with Rostropovich. Much was expected of him. "But what made them particularly angry was that they thought I was trying to be a smart Jew. They suspected I would stay long enough to finish studying with Rostropovich, because he was the best and I couldn't study with him in Tel Aviv, and that I would then slip abroad. And I must confess, they were right to suspect."

But Maisky was too prominent simply to be kicked out of the conservatoire. A bizarre chain of events followed, which he believes to have been a KGB frame-up. If that is true, the irony is that it played ingeniously upon a pupil's reverence for his teacher. "I was recording Rostropovich's lectures. It was quite common knowledge and I gave public hearings of the tapes. The idea obsessed me. There was no other way for normal human beings to digest the information and inspiration he gave."

Maisky had an ancient second-

in a Soviet equivalent of *Catch-22*: if he stayed in Russia, he would have been deprived of official engagements; if he applied for emigration, he would immediately have been conscripted for military service. "That would have meant three years in another sort of jail, and then they could always say I had seen some secret installations, and stop me from leaving for another five years." It was Maisky's turn to be ingenious. He befriended a Jewish psychiatrist who, in effect, certified him insane - not incurably insane, just slightly barmy, enough to put him in a "very mild mental institution, with the alcoholics rather than the lunatics".

This "history of mental illness" was sufficient to save Maisky from the Red Army, and indeed save the Red Army from Maisky. He applied for emigration. The authorities demanded that he repay the cost of 14 years of state musical education, deemed to be 9,000 roubles. They might as well have asked for the crown jewels. But Maisky's sister in Israel contacted the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, who set the wheels of the American-Jewish network in motion. An American benefactor was found. Maisky left the Soviet Union on November 7, 1972: "the 55th anniversary of the Russian Revolution," he recalls wryly. Unlike Rostropovich and Ashkenazy, he has not felt the desire to return even in these changed times. "Eighteen months shovelling cement was enough to cure me of nostalgia." Arriving in Vienna penniless and unknown, Maisky had only Rostropovich's advice to rely upon. "He said, 'Look, it's going to be very difficult to make it as a soloist, particularly for the first 60 years. But don't ever play in an orchestra. You'll get good propositions, a comfortable life, plenty of money, and you'll never get out once you're in. Sell newspapers in the street, rather than that.'"

Rostropovich was right. A fortnight after he emigrated, Maisky auditioned for Zubin Mehta, who offered him the principal cello position in either of his orchestras: the Israel and the Los Angeles Philharmonics. Maisky declined. Instead, he studied in California with the great Russian émigré cellist, Gregor Piatigorsky. He was Piatigorsky's last pupil, and the only cellist ever to study with both him and Rostropovich. "You know what they had in common? In all my lessons with both of them, we never spoke about the cello. Their attitude was: it is just a vehicle for expressing music."

Today, Maisky is in the top rank

'Five tons of cement per person per day, to be shifted with a shovel: nice training for a cellist! The dust was choking. You couldn't see past two metres'

hand tape-recorder, but he craved something of higher fidelity. The only place to obtain it in Moscow, he thought, was at an open-air black market. "There, a man asked me what I wanted. When I told him, he said he didn't have a tape-recorder, but he did have some certificates for a Beriozka [hard currency shop], where a foreign tape-recorder could be bought. He gave some story about needing cash quickly for a holiday, so I paid him in roubles for the certificates."

That was Maisky's "crime". Events then moved quickly. Maisky, with his certificates, went into a Beriozka. "Many people did these things, I didn't see any crime in it. I didn't steal from anybody. I was arrested on the spot - I had been followed. Later, some people even told me who had set me up. And that was that: nobody saw me for the next year and a half, except at the trial, when my head was completely shaved. Maybe that's why I like a lot of hair now."

Even after he was released, Maisky's career appeared trapped



Maisky: "At the trial my head was shaved. Maybe that's why I like a lot of hair now"

of cellists, particularly well-known for his volatile chamber music performances with the pianist Martha Argerich. The months shovelling cement have certainly not blunted his mercurial musical passions; perhaps the labour camp even stiffened an eccentric genius's resolve to succeed.

Twenty years on, what defies all rational explanation is not the

determination of an individual to speak and act freely, but the Byzantine workings of the Soviet's cultural apparatus. How could a system which so painstakingly nurtured the finest classical musicians and dancers in the world, then turn and destroy them as performers if they develop minds and ambitions of their own? Soviet cultural historians are not yet ready

to answer that. But at least they are beginning to ask the question. In the West, we only know about the Maiskys and the Rostropovichs: the ones that got away.

● Mischa Maisky's recording of the Elgar Cello Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Rocco Variations, with The Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli, is available on Deutsche Grammophon (431685-2).

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

Quarrying a vein of laughter

HERBERT Lom neither explodes, apologetically like Chief Inspector Dreyfus in *The Pink Panther*, nor glowers with the lethal intent of the screen villains he has frequently played. In private life, surrounded by his books and pictures, he lives in a pleasant house in a leafy Hampstead road. He enjoys the role of patriarch, with children and grandchildren: "my children are my home," as he puts it. After 50 years in Britain, however, he still car-

Herbert Lom, playing a murderous cleric in *The Pope Must Die*, a new comedy, talks to David Robinson

ries the air of elegant erudition that marks the middle-European intellectual.

Even before leaving Czechoslovakia, just before the second world war, he had made a couple of films and changed his name. Herbert Charles Angelo Kuchacevich

ze Schluderpacher, though unmistakably patrician (the family was ennobled in 1601), did not seem quite right on the film posters. Lom is a Czech word that means "a quarry". "I was still at university in Prague when I did these films. Then I spent a little time at

Cambridge trying to continue my studies in art history, but the war broke out. I was released from the army to work in the Czech and German section of the BBC, and stayed there for the duration."

He made his first British film, *The Young Mr Pitt*, 50 years ago. Other early appearances included *The Seventh Veil* and *The Ladykillers*. In the busy years since then he has done comparatively little stage work. In 1955 he was "slavering away" as the King of Siam in *The King and I*. "That lasted two years. I found it very hard. Since then I have done very little in the theatre. The last thing was eight years ago at the Haymarket, as Napoleon in William Douglas Home's play, *Becket*."

Napoleon has been a recurrent role, and a *bisque* statuette of the emperor stands in his drawing room. "I think I played him in a Shaw one-acter called *The Strange Woman*. Then, in 1941, I played him again in *The Young Mr Pitt*. Then I was Napoleon in King Victor's *War and Peace* in 1956."

His artistic encounters with Napoleon ("a much maligned gentleman") have given him a lasting interest in the period. He has just finished a book about Dr Guillotin, inventor of the guillotine. "I researched it for several years, and spent one year writing. He was a real scientist, a real humanitarian, and a member of the French parliament. But he's just remembered for this one frightful thing."

Lom calls *The Pope Must Die*, in which he plays a Vatican mafioso, "a blasphemous little spoof. Very irreverent. Robbie Coltrane plays a simple country priest who by mistake is made Pope. He finds that the Vatican is involved in financial machinations and not the other-



Irreverent spoof: Herbert Lom in *The Pope Must Die*

wordly place he had supposed. I hope it will not offend too many people. I was raised as a Roman Catholic, but I gave up religion a long time ago. The comedy style is very much that of the television series *The Comic Strip*, and is very black."

Does it irk him now that he is always identified with the *Pink Panther* character? "A little. I've even lost parts that I was after, because they say, 'Good actor, Lom, but too much associated with crazy comedies,' even though I've only made six crazy comedies out of a hundred pictures."

"If acting or writing has any purpose it is surely to take people out of their own lives and into other people's lives and art. All good writing and all good acting is about that. The parts that I have loved most are the ones that showed me what it is like to be a concentration camp victim, or a sad Emperor Napoleon, or a

King of Siam, or a KGB man, or a psychiatrist. For many years he was barred from returning to Czechoslovakia; but he has just been back to Prague. "I hope it will open up again now, although the film industry is on its knees: almost as bad as England."

Does he still feel Czech? "It is very difficult to know that. When I left my acting school in England, my elocution teacher came to the opening night of something I was doing, and said, 'Lom, your English is perfect; but you are still breathing in Czech.'"

"I still speak Czech fluently, but language changes. In some ways it is like visiting another life. I would not like to give an unprepared lecture in Czech, for example. But I could easily go and die in Prague. I would not feel that I am in a strange land, particularly now that it has become a democratic country again."

● *The Pope Must Die* opens in London on Friday.

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Anatole Kaletsky

America's economic recovery has telling lessons for Britain

There is a point in nearly every economic cycle when all the news seems bleak, when the industrial and public mood is uniformly dismal, when the anxiety of the financial markets reaches a feverish climax. At times like this, recession has often done its greatest damage and the economy is on the point of turning around. As the computers disgorge their flood of grim monthly figures and the currency speculators turn against sterling with a vengeance, perhaps the low point has finally been reached? Just look at what has happened in America, the optimists say.

A few months ago, the American economy seemed even sicker than Britain's. The banking system was imploding into a speculative black hole. Companies like Bloomingdale's, Pan Am and Trump casinos were going bankrupt. The housing market was collapsing, unemployment was rising and the dollar was tumbling to new record lows by the day.

Yet within weeks of the dollar hitting its low point in early February, the world began to realise that the American economy was also near its trough. First confidence, then consumption and finally production have been recovering sharply, and in the last month or so even employment has begun to rise.

What is the relevance of this experience for Britain? The Treasury believes that many of the factors which catalysed America's recovery will also work in Britain. But there are three crucial differences. While Britain has subordinated all other economic objectives to keeping sterling strong in the ERM, the Americans have left the dollar's fate entirely to the markets, a policy which resulted in one of the steepest devaluations on record, climaxing in a virtual run on the dollar when the Federal Reserve Board displayed its complete indifference to the currency markets by cutting its key interest rates during the Gulf war. As a result of this devaluation, the decline in American consumer spending has been offset by a surge in exports and manufacturing industry has largely been insulated from the effects of recession. Another ironic consequence of benign neglect of the dollar was the currency's rebound from February onwards, as financial markets perceived that the dollar had fallen below the long-term equilibrium level justified by America's industrial competitiveness.

Another contrast is in interest rate policy. While interest rates in both countries have fallen, the cuts in America began from a much lower level, and came against a background of static or even slightly accelerating inflation. As a result, the real cost of borrowing in America has fallen sharply. Today the Federal funds rate, equivalent to Britain's base rate, stands at 5 1/2 per cent, or less than 2 per cent above expected inflation. In Britain, base rates of 11 1/2 per cent imply a real borrowing cost of 7 1/2 per cent, as it becomes increasingly likely that the government's forecast of 4 per cent inflation will be achieved.

This leads to the third, and most important, difference: the psychological climate created by government policies. In America both the White House and the Federal Reserve Board made it abundantly clear that they would continue cutting interest rates and stimulating the economy until recovery was an accomplished fact. In Britain, by contrast, the government has preached the fire of the ERM and brimstone of inflation. In America, consumers and businessmen took their cue from government policy and started to plan for a recovery. In Britain, the government's relentless deflation seems designed to go on punishing the optimists for many months to come.

Walter Ellis on Sir Alastair Burnet, soon to retire after 25 years as the face and voice of newscasting

And finally, the break



Alastair Burnet in 1966, when he was editor of *The Economist*

He was a former editor of *The Economist* and of the old broadsheet *Daily Express*, and as such took with him into the studios of ITN each evening a lifetime's expectation of being obeyed. He was never content simply to read the news; he liked to think that it was conveyed to his millions of viewers through the inestimable Burnet filter, with the dress left behind and the pure truth revealed, confidentially, with unrivalled discretion and authority.

Was he right? Was the truth not that, save when he was interviewing or anchoring election or Budget specials, he was, essentially, reading the words in front of him? Sir Alastair would pale at the thought, but might, in the end, accept it. This was why he wished to be a member of the board and why he became associate editor. He wanted to be in at the beginning, not merely a voice at the end. To a great extent, over many years, he succeeded. The irony is that it is for the least of his achievements — his news-reading, his After the Breaks, his And Finallys, most of all his many interviews with royalty, which represented a breaking of

the BBC monopoly — that he will be remembered. Television may make you famous while you are on the air, but it is the most exacting of media. When you are gone, you are gone forever. Who now remembers Reginald Bosanquet? Sir Alastair will at least retire rich. The *ITN Book of the Queen Mother*, which he compiled, yielded a small fortune. In all, his slim volumes — spin-offs from his royal documentaries — may have netted him as much as £1 million.

In the end, when the definitive history of ITN itself is written, several key chapters will have to be devoted to Sir Alastair. ITN is a medium central to the development of UK news broadcasting, and its principal newscaster has been involved almost from the word go.

Born in Edinburgh in 1928, he attended The Leys School, Cambridge and Worcester College, Oxford before joining the *Glasgow Herald* as a sub-editor and leader writer in 1951. He joined *The Economist* in 1958 but left to become political editor of the fledgling ITN in 1963. Had he not been invited back to *The Economist* as editor 12 months later, who knows what might have happened? In fact, he re-

mained in charge of the *St James's Street* newsheet for nine years, increasing both its sales and prestige, before embarking on a brief career as editor of the *Express*.

It was not until 1976 that he rejoined ITN, which by then was giving the BBC a hard time with its mixture of hard news, slick presentation and absorbing behind-the-scenes detail. He immediately added weight to the programme and lent it an authority and quirky personality which has persisted ever since. Working most successfully with his grizzled fellow veteran, Sandy Gall (now departed), he became the Walter Cronkite of British telly-journalism, self-consciously setting the style and tone of the nightly half-hour and establishing himself as *The Man You Can Trust* in time of adversity or confusion.

His knighthood in 1984 was due recognition of his special place in the nation's living rooms over 24 years, a period which is closing, curiously, with *New At Ten* being seen as ever so slightly Establishment and stodgy and under renewed fire from a revitalised BBC. It is a measure of Sir Alastair's success that he should have turned the awkward 10 o'clock slot into a fixed part of so many people's viewing. Now he is gone, ITN must write him, honourably, into its history book and seek to do something about its still pressing problems.

Continental notions of sovereignty have been at odds with ours since the Reformation, Jonathan Clark writes

When British Conservatives talk about sovereignty no one in Europe seems to understand. But the view we take of the "S" word will decide between the two visions of European unity now on offer. Margaret Thatcher, by making common cause with John Major and Douglas Hurd, in her Chicago speech, established her version of what the options are with indelible clarity: a co-operating association of independent sovereign states on the one hand, or a federal superstate, a United States of Europe, on the other.

That was not how things looked when Sir Geoffrey Howe made his famous resignation speech which toppled her. He saw the options as pragmatic, progressive co-operation on the one hand and purblind Englishism on the other. "Sovereignty is not virginity, which you either have or you don't," he insisted. It was flexible, negotiable, shareable. Why not share it with the European Community? Now Mr Hurd has reminded us of a different historical scenario; federalism to the English means centralisation and unified authority. Which is right?

As even Sir Geoffrey admitted: "We are... one of those very few countries which has, in its time, enjoyed sovereignty on as absolute a scale as it has ever existed." Like most things under threat today, our experience of it began with the Reformation. Medieval England was part of European Christendom: it never developed a unitary concept of sovereignty while the papacy effectively claimed jurisdiction

over the things that were God's. The break with Rome made the difference, and Henry VIII's Act in Restraint of Appeals contained the key phrase "the Realm of England is an empire" — that is, a jurisdiction from which there was no appeal.

Thomas Cromwell, the ecclesiastical reformer, quickly extended this principle in the union with Wales of 1536. The same Reformation logic led Henry VIII to adopt the title "king of Ireland" in 1541. Formerly it had been argued the "regal estate" of that country was in the papacy, and that the English king's lordship there was "but a governance under the obedience of the same". Henry's move was intended as a step towards unification and an attempt to defend England's religious experiment from the threat of military intervention by France or Spain. Only Scotland's stubborn Catholicism prevented him from arranging a dynastic union with that ancient enemy.

English lawyers responded to these events by devising a new attitude to the integrity of the state. Sovereignty was not a concept that had emerged in the Roman law tradition of the continent which continued for centuries to include a host of local and corporate privileges, immunities and independent jurisdictions. The English common law swept all these away and created a single, level playing field.

Medieval Europe regarded kings as heavily circumscribed by divine law, natural law and custom; modern England came to regard the sovereign as supreme over these constraints. So valuable a prize was worth fighting for, and



Father of independence: Henry VIII laid the foundations of Britain's attitude to sovereignty

the 17th century was torn by conflict over whether sovereignty resided with the king, with Parliament or the king-in-Parliament; but all sides regarded it as absolute.

Thomas Hobbes shocked his contemporaries when he gave expression to this attitude in *Leviathan*, but chiefly because he claimed that such a sovereign was amoral. Anglicans like Sir William Blackstone, author of *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, did their best to keep the flag of godly respectability in place. However states began, Blackstone argued, "there is and must be in all of them a supreme,

irresistible, absolute, uncontrollable authority, in which the *jura summi imperii*, or the rights of sovereignty, reside", otherwise a state was not independent.

Within Britain, that sovereign was the king-in-Parliament. "It hath sovereign and uncontrollable authority in making, confirming, enlarging, restraining, abrogating, repealing, reviving and expounding of laws, concerning matters of all possible denominations, ecclesiastical, or temporal, civil, military, maritime, or criminal, this being the place where that absolute despotic power, which must in all governments reside somewhere,

is entrusted by the constitution of these kingdoms."

This was the conception of sovereignty that many Americans rebelled against in 1776. But as soon as they had established their new nation as a libertarian alliance between 13 independent former colonies it quickly turned back into a superstate. The American revolution seemed to prove Blackstone right. Through the 19th and 20th centuries, English lawyers have been almost unanimous in describing English sovereignty in its terms. None were more influential than the group of jurists at All Souls College, Oxford, especially the

Liberal Unionists, A. V. Dicey and Sir William Anson.

Dicey emphasised that parliaments were so sovereign that they could not bind future parliaments: otherwise tinkering legislation would already have violated the terms of the acts incorporating Scotland and Ireland. Partly, he said, this was logical: limited sovereignty was "a contradiction in terms". Partly it was because the supremacy of parliament "lies deep in the history of the English people".

Anson and Dicey, like many Victorians, credited the sovereign with such sweeping powers because they were confident that it would not destroy itself by yielding territory or surrendering ultimate control over the homeland. But what were they to do in 1913, when the Irish Home Rule Bill was about to become law? Anson wrote that if the Protestants reacted with "armed resistance, I for one believe, with a conviction which no results of a referendum or general election can alter, that they are justified in their resistance". Dicey even signed the Ulster Covenant and pledged himself to fight. Only the first world war prevented civil war over Home Rule. Whether they would have reacted similarly to Britain's incorporation in the EC is a relevant question.

Must Britain choose between independence and subordination to a European superstate? Whether our historic assumptions have faded to the point where European incorporation seems an exciting amorous adventure is yet to be tested. But if we find that sovereignty is indeed like virginity, we can expect more than a polite protest from a nation whose entrenched attitudes and dispositions are rudely violated. The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

...and moreover ALAN COREN

Once upon a time, in the days when I could remember the titles of television programmes — incidentally, did you notice, in one of last week's papers, that a drug had been developed which restored crumbling memory? I may well try a vat or two, as soon as I can remember what it was called. I know I put the paper somewhere — there was an extremely popular series in which Marius Goring played a forensic scientist who could walk into a room and immediately tell that something a bit rum had been committed in it, even though there were no visible signs of same. He did this with a sort of sixth sense, which he then backed up with an old Gladstone bag containing test-tubes and, sure enough, after a few minutes of intense acting, he was in a position to inform us that a big solicitor with a wall-eye, a blue serge suit and a Tyneside accent had been on the premises six weeks earlier, doing away with a thin red-haired woman from Clacton. It was not the science, however, that was the impressive bit, it was Goring's instinct, summed up in the phrase — odd, the little things one does remember — "All activity maintains a residual presence".

I had that instinct yesterday. I had nipped out for no more than a few minutes to buy a type-writer-ribbon, but as soon as I stepped back through the front door, I knew that activity had been going on. The premises were as locked and as uninhabited as I had left them, the burglar alarm had nothing to report, nor had

the house been up to any of the things that houses often do when left to their own devices, that is, none of those devices was leaking, fusing, smelling, burning, or going clunk; yet something was unquestionably amiss. It was only after I had opened all the doors, inspected all the rooms and walked back into the hall that that question quite literally removed itself. It did so in the form of a sparrow which suddenly plummeted from one picture rail, flew a couple of quick circuits, and landed on the opposite one. It did this twice. Then it looked at me, sharply.

How do you tell whether an animal is smart or not? Had it not been a sparrow but, let us say, Trigger, I should have been fairly confident that it was attempting to mime me something: Trigger would often trot up to Roy Rogers, sometimes bang in the middle of a tricky solo, nudge the guitar, and then canter up and down whinnying in order to indicate that a masked man was on the roof or a barn was burning down; but Trigger had a big brain, certainly when compared with a sparrow's, plus a Hollywood education. Nevertheless, when the sparrow did exactly the same thing yet again, I decided it was communicating a desire to fly away, so I opened the front door. The sparrow instantly flew into the kitchen. So I opened the back door as well, to create the through draft which might remind the sparrow of the wider world, but, despite the fact that its feathers were now blowing about pretty informatively, it

would not budge from the top of the fridge.

Fortunately, there was nobody around to see what I did next. I opened a third door, pointed inside the fridge, and asked the sparrow if it wanted anything to eat. I did this, having a poor command of Sparrow in English; but this should not have mattered, because I also took out a cream cracker and crumbled it on to the draining board and pointed at that, too, and you did not have to be Trigger to get the point.

The bird, however, showed no interest. It just stood on the fridge and looked at me. Having no other course of action, and also a pressing commercial need to start wearing out my new ribbon, I went up to my office, leaving all the downstairs doors and windows open; risky, you may say, with all these burglars about. But you never knew your luck, I might get one who nicks sparrows.

I had been typing for about five minutes when the old Goring feeling came back. I looked around. The sparrow was watching me from the bookcase. If it had not been, this piece would have been about a woman I met on Sunday who makes her own walnut oil, but since, as I draw to my conclusion, the sparrow is still there, I feel I ought to fill you in, because the last time anything like this happened to a back, the bird in question was a raven, and you will recall how E.A. Poe ended up. He became unhinged, and we have been together for some time, you and I, and I would not want you to hear the news from anyone else.

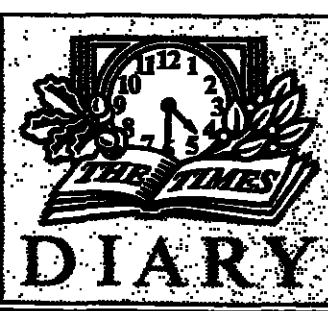
Symbolic timing

Peter Brooke will take a break tonight from the talks on the future of Ireland to accept the annual Ireland Fund Award at a charity ball in London. The timely award, made by a committee of the great and the good stretching from the Earl of Gowrie to Terry Wogan, marks his contribution over the past year to promoting "harmony and reconciliation within Britain and Ireland".

The award, a statue of a bird about to take flight but with its feet still on the ground, will be presented by Josephine Hart-Saatchi, chairman of the Ireland Fund of Great Britain, and the recipient of the award last year. Its symbolism is obvious, she says. "We are ready to fly, but in many ways we are still rooted." The Brooke initiative "offers hope for us all".

The fund was set up in 1988 as an adjunct to the American Fund of Ireland established by Dr Anthony O'Reilly, chairman of H.J. Heinz, and similar Irish funds in Canada, Australia and France. The British fund is supported by a "confederation of concerns" seeking to bridge the gap between North and South. The fund sponsors projects such as Hazelwood college in Newtownabbey, which takes pupils from all denominations.

"From cradle to grave many Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland have no contact. We try to bring them together from childhood, to help to do away with the divisions," Hart-Saatchi says. Last year the ball raised £130,000, a figure the organisers hope to top tonight, despite the recession. Brooke himself was too busy with the Stormont talks yesterday to comment on his award. "In any case, he is not supposed to know about it," said a spokesman for the Northern Ireland office.



Ann Mallalieu, QC, who takes her seat in the House of Lords today, may find it a little difficult to fit into what some have dubbed the best gentleman's club in London. In 1982 Mallalieu won a High Court action against El Vito's in Fleet Street, which decreed that women could not drink at the bar. After her success she rushed across the road to order a drink. Not to be outdone, the management immediately instructed that women would not be served if they were wearing trousers — legitimate under the sex discrimination act as the rules of dress also said men were required to wear jacket and tie.

Pinter unblocked

Harold Pinter's love of tennis has helped him to overcome the writer's block which he feared would prevent him from penning another play. Although his political writing and screenplay adaptations were unaffected, "something's happened, I think, to my creative juices", he said in an interview last year.

Now comes *Party Time*, his first new work since *Mountain Language* in 1988, and set in a health club, believed to be modelled on the Vanderbilt tennis club in West London, of which Pinter is a keen playing member. The 60 minute work opens at the Almeida theatre next winter. Its plot contrasts the

comfortable life of the leisured classes inside the club with the altogether nastier events taking place on the streets outside.

"Most people hate my plays, so I don't know why they want me to write more," Pinter said last year. An box office sell-out is expected to prove him wrong.

Plaque remover?

Only Benn, who last clashed with the Lord Chancellor over his renunciation of the peerage, has had a further brush with the highest law officer of the land — over a broom cupboard in the House of Commons. Using his own electric power drill, Benn has turned the cupboard, deep in the crypt at Westminster, into a memorial Emily Wilding Davison, the suffragette, with a plaque to her memory.

Now Lord Mackay of Clashfern, under whose jurisdiction the crypt falls, has ordered him to remove the plaque on the grounds that its words are tendentious. Benn

women did not have the vote. The suffragette, who has a descendant working in the Commons today, died after throwing herself under the king's horse on Derby day in 1913. "It shows how controversial democracy still is when the Lord Chancellor can object to a plaque in a broom cupboard," Benn says.

His next project, he says, is to erect a plaque to Countess Constance Markievicz, the first woman MP, whose Fenianism meant, that like Gerry Adams, she never took her seat.

Vane glory

There is nothing particularly new about the arguments over the independence of the pound, rekindled with such vigour this week. Opponents of monetary union and a single currency were drawing succour from historical parallels yesterday. They pointed out that Winston Churchill soon regretted his decision when, as Chancellor in 1925, he took Britain back on to the gold standard.

Edward Heath's experiment with a European currency "snake" in 1972 lasted just six weeks in the face of bitter opposition from many in his own cabinet, including his then education secretary, a certain Mrs Thatcher.

At least the economy has progressed since the days of the gold standard when, it is said, the Bank of England used a weather vane to determine bank rates. If the wind blew from the east it meant bullion-carrying ships sailed into London, increasing demand for credit. Interest rates went up. A wind from the west indicated it was time for them to come down.

The family planning association is advertising for a new press officer. Only a temporary appointment, you understand. The previous holder of the post is on maternity leave.



has refused. Davison barricaded herself in the room on the night of the 1911 census in an attempt to register her address as the House of Commons to highlight the fact



WIDENING THE GAP

Last week, Margaret Thatcher seemed on the brink of busting open British politics with her utterances in America; on Monday night, she instead bust open European politics; yesterday, she went global. Her proposal for a new Atlantic Economic Community embracing the EC, the United States and the new east European democracies encapsulates the Thatcherite — and perhaps the modern Conservative — ideal on its grandest scale: sovereignty of nations, free trade between nations.

Freedom from office conveys on the statesman an increased ability to propose, together with a confined ability to deliver. In reality, Mrs Thatcher's proposal is most unlikely to supplant the inner EC issue from this year's agenda, or to offer the British government a way out of its European isolation. Yet, because it is overt, it highlights the gap that now separates Britain from the other members of the EC.

For the English Channel is as nothing compared with the gulf in perception now evident between Britain and the other members of the European Community. Douglas Hurd was yesterday morning pouring oil on troubled waters by claiming that the word "federal" meant less in the French language than in English. For all that, the federal thrust of the draft treaties can leave no doubt.

The period in which the government has thought that it can continue along Mrs Thatcher's furrow but with a top dressing of pro-European public relations has come abruptly to an end. While most European governments are happy to play along with M Delors' dirigisme, Britain's cannot.

What is still hard to comprehend is the degree to which the differences between Britain and the rest of Europe are of substance or merely of shade. Britain throughout the 1980s has come to see its partners as curiously dissembling over the EC. In practice, they pursue their national interests more ruthlessly than Britain. Britain has taken its Rome treaty obligations fairly seriously. Countries such as France, Italy and Germany, have not.

In some European countries the sovereign

state means much less than it does in Britain, where Parliament and the political process are much prized assets. In Italy respect for central government is weak and for national assemblies minimal. Germany already has a federal system; its national government finds it less unusual to cede power upwards or downwards.

France has a deep attachment to nationhood but its own national assembly gets little affection from the electorate. In Germany, France and Italy, cities are far more important political entities than in Britain. To some Mediterranean nations, the EC is the bountiful provider of cash.

One conclusion from all this is that the present EC is composed of irreconcilables. On political union, Britain is being asked by M Delors to abandon its public attachment to parliamentary sovereignty and go along either with real federalism — spelt out in the political union draft treaty — or with the cynical version adumbrated by Italian and Luxembourg ministers yesterday in a pretence that M Delors was not really serious. If it does not do this negotiations will break down in December and the rest of Europe will go down a still uncertain road on its own, with Britain semi-detached.

As Mrs Thatcher implied yesterday, there is nothing whatsoever wrong in taking the latter course. The wealth wall, along with the protectionist wall and the isolationist wall (seen during the Gulf war), are not cheap "anti-European" jibes. They suggest a genuinely alternative route towards international economic co-operation, one far more outward looking than anything in M Delors' vision. Britain would find itself outside a political consortium, but one whose character is becoming clearer by the month. The Luxembourg president said it was no more than "a loose association of states". He cannot have read the draft treaties. Semantic games cannot disguise a profound conceptual rift between a confederation of sovereign states and a federal union of states of Europe. Mr Hurd's first instinct was correct: for Britain, there is no fudging federation.

LINE IN THE SAND

The Western allies in the Gulf now face precisely the problem predicted before they went to war to free Kuwait. Sucked into a whirlpool of shifting objectives, conflicting pressures and moral relativities, they must decide periodically either to extend their commitment or cut their losses. As Napoleon found after Borodino, victors have more options than the vanquished, and thus more options for error.

The original Gulf war aim of the Western and Arab coalition was to restore the people and government of Kuwait to their rightful territory, to reduce any future threat to Kuwait and to make the region safer and more stable. There was no aim to establish democracy in Iraq, or even in Kuwait. There was no aim to give autonomy to the Kurds, succour the Shias, or to defend any Iraqis against President Saddam Hussein if they revolted. George Bush and John Major publicly hoped for Saddam's overthrow, but these were never war aims.

America and its allies achieved their defined goals on February 28. As a result Iraq was seriously weakened, and President Bush's line in the sand firmly drawn. Meanwhile, the United Nations emerged as an effective authority for policing territorial disputes and reversing aggression. The world's conscience has also been directed at the plight of minorities in the region, and relief has been brought to millions.

These are no mean achievements. But to some they are not enough. The delusion of military omnipotence is consuming many shades of opinion in Britain and America. How could Saddam be still in control, when such force is ranged against him? How can the Kuwaitis, helped home by force of foreign arms, be allowed to resume their former corrupt politics? Why can so little be done for the Kurds and the Shias?

To these questions some give a simple answer: if only the West had continued to Baghdad and toppled Saddam, all would have been well. General Schwarzkopf could

have driven on up the famous Baghdad highway, knocked on Saddam's door and shot him. America might then have installed a benign regime in his place — which might even have survived an allied withdrawal — while also imposing democracy and human rights in Kuwait.

Perhaps. But while comparisons are dangerous, this was precisely the trap into which America fell in Vietnam after France's withdrawal in 1955. A sequence of Saigon puppets from Diem onwards needed ever greater support to stay in power. Ideal solutions are meaningless unless they are also stable and self-sustaining solutions. Otherwise they become colonial, usually temporary, sometimes bloody, always costly. Democracy imposed at gunpoint is often later deposed at gunpoint.

The West and its allies did a good job last February, the limits of which were clearly signalled in advance. But the subsequent actions of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi governments, however deplorable, are not a reason for returning to the fray. Any postwar responsibility must be met through the UN. Both in the north and in the east of Iraq, the UN has been found wanting. American and European forces were needed to give the Kurds the confidence to return to Iraq.

While the logic of their deployment must be followed through, it must be confined to an immediate humanitarian aim. None the less until there is a credible UN presence in Iraq, the West cannot plan its withdrawal. This gives Europe and America a powerful incentive to put spine into the UN operation, supported by the economic sanctions which Saddam clearly regards as effective.

There can be no perpetual duty to maintain a Western presence. As was said at the start of the war, these are disputes which only those in the region can resolve. Perhaps this means bloodshed. But the ills of the Middle East were never going to be healed by outside intervention.

THE PRINCE'S BACK

Alternative medicine has every reason to be grateful to the Prince of Wales, but has he reason to be grateful in return? His bad back, for some time chronic, has become acute. Nothing, not sport, not architecture, not ecology, can have put him so closely in sympathy with the twinges of his nation. The British back is nowadays as stiff as its upper lip. But no part of the anatomy is apparently more susceptible to the blandishments of fringe medicine. Has it let him down?

Heirs to the throne inherit a liability to ridicule long before they inherit a kingdom. That has been the prince's experience in trumps. Yet it is doubtful if any panel of doughty scholars could find a word of silliness in the whole corpus of princely output. His attitude to alternative medicine is full of common sense, as his response to his present predicament shows.

He has "degenerative discs" at the base of his spine. His back muscles are in spasm. Even his regular physiotherapy has had to be suspended, lest it aggravate the damage. His doctor, the consultant orthopaedic surgeon John Webb, has prescribed anti-inflammatory drugs and ordered rest; if the prince does not let up, said Mr Webb, nothing short of an operation may be able to relieve his spine.

The prince also favours the "unconventional" techniques of his Australian physiotherapist, Sarah Key, but because they seem to help, not because they are wrapped in

mumbo-jumbo. She speeded his recovery from a broken arm last year. Not to allow her to try to relieve his back-pain would have been downright daft; as it would be to continue with her treatment when his consultant warned him it was making things worse.

In his case the purveyors of both forms of treatment, the conventional and the unconventional, have made just the sort of room for each other that the prince urged on the British Medical Association in 1982 and since. He did not advocate alternative medicine as an obsessive substitute for the more usual kind. He merely questioned whether the conventional professionals had a monopoly of medical wisdom. The prince has now become a standing (sadly now more often a sitting) example of his principles.

Fringe medicine has its own fringe, and the Prince of Wales knows a crank when he sees one. His point is that conventional doctors have made the fringe of the fringe a convenient excuse for not taking any of it seriously, even if some techniques — chiropractic, homeopathy and acupuncture — have been proved effective. It is the low success rate of the conventional treatment for back-pain that drives back-sufferers to such alternatives. And they have the Prince of Wales to thank for reminding the medical profession that how such treatments work is secondary to whether they work.

Community law and press freedom

From Lord Ardwick and others

Sir, We regard it as essential that the UK's case is forcefully and effectively presented at the final session of the European Congress on the Press, which opens in Luxembourg on July 2. Its declared aim is to provide a point of reference for the European Commission when it considers laws or regulations which would impact on the press.

Four working groups, covering legal framework, human resources, market and means of production, comprise newspaper and periodical publishers matched by union representatives (mostly nominated by the International Federation of Journalists). They discuss, in front of an array of Commission officials, matters ranging from media ownership controls to state subsidies for the press, press rates, newspaper advertising and marketing restrictions, the impact of the proposed data protection directive on the newsgathering process, the Social Charter, and article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which deals with the right to freedom of expression.

The central question is the extent to which member states should be able to maintain their own national laws governing the relationship between the press and government and the parameters in which freedom of expression is exercised. The regulatory framework created by the Commission will affect the press in many areas — commercial and editorial. We believe that member states, and this country in particular, should resist any encroachment on the freedoms they now possess.

In particular we need to debate in the media the extent to which it is appropriate for the United Kingdom to adopt the approach shared by many member states and their newspapers, namely that member states should have rights to derogate from general principles of Community law on the basis that it is inappropriate for those principles to be applied to the press because of its special role.

Attractive as this approach seems to be, it conflicts with the traditional British position that, by and large, the press has no exemptions not available to the ordinary citizen. The media need to debate which way we want to go.

Debate on these issues should start now, so that an appropriate contribution is made to the congress by UK representatives.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ARDWICK,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
RICHARD FRANCIS,
NICHOLAS HERBERT,
DAVID NEWELL,
MICHAEL REX,
ANTHONY WHITAKER,
JOHN WILSON
(Members, Media Law Group),
c/o Westminster Press,
Newspaper House,
8-16 Great New Street, EC4.

Duty-free sales

From Mr J. R. Owen

Sir, In today's *Times* (Business, June 17) an article on BAA's results refers to "the losses that will arise after the abolition of European Community duty-free sales next year".

Although it is the European Commission's intention that intra-EC duty and tax-free allowances should end on December 31, 1992, it is by no means certain that they will do so. Vigorous campaigning by the Duty-Free Confederation, which represents all sectors involved in duty-free (including BAA), by its equivalents in all other EC member states and by the International Duty Free Confederation, have meant that national governments are becoming increasingly aware of the many economic benefits generated by duty-free.

There is no good reason, be it in logic, in principle or in practice, why duty-free should be abolished in the far from complete single market that will be the reality of December 1992. Yours faithfully,
J. R. OWEN
(Vice-Chairman),
The Duty-Free Confederation,
Priory House,
8 Battersea Park Road, SW8.

Watering holes

From Mr Nigel Bryant

Sir, "Bars, hotels and restaurants across Britain" are charging £1.10 for a glass of fizzy water (report, June 18). Discouraging beer drinkers could tell you of landlords who have been doing this for years.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL BRYANT,
The Old Rectory,
Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire.

Learning to swim

From the Director of the Royal Life Saving Society and others

Sir, The letter from the Director of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RSPA), Julian Wetters (June 11), makes strange reading. The National Water Safety Committee (under the secretariatship of RSPA) at its meeting on June 13 requested that the minutes record the committee's total support for the principle of teaching swimming in schools and its dismay at the letter.

RSPA's own statistics fail to support Mr Wetters' comments. In over 90 per cent of cases in 1990 its figures on drownings do not indicate whether the casualty could swim.

Mr Wetters makes the assumption that non-swimmers are "natu-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Hope and hypocrisy on homelessness

From Mr John Perry

Sir, Janet Daley's attempt to "call the bluff of the homelessness lobby" (June 14) portrays legitimate concern for "genuine unfortunates" as being entirely separate from the aims of the "clumsy bureaucracy" that runs council housing. She seems to have swallowed the convenient myth put about by some politicians that homelessness could be solved if only local authorities were more efficient.

Let us establish a few facts. First, local authorities no longer house "nearly half the population". They own just 20 per cent of the housing stock. Their four million dwellings are one million fewer than a decade ago when the "right to buy" was introduced.

Council-house sales have generated around £20 billion over this period but very little has been reinvested in affordable rented housing. Even allowing for building that has taken place by housing associations, the decline of council housing and private renting means 1.7 million fewer houses to rent in this country than in 1980.

Second, homelessness means much more than "visible" homeless people who are sleeping rough. Local authorities dealt with nearly 150,000 families last year who were statutorily homeless, and many more who fell outside the legal requirements. This was in addition to trying to house 1.2 million families on their normal waiting lists.

Third, whilst it is perfectly true that houses should not be empty when demand is so high, who is to blame? For a start, 82 per cent of empty properties are privately owned. This scandal could be dealt with if local authorities had cash to buy long-standing empty properties compulsorily and sell them on to new owners or to housing associations.

Of empty properties in the public sector, a substantial number (15,000) are owned by the Ministry of Defence which — in terms of property left vacant — is one of the worst landlords in Britain. Then there are some 98,000 empty council houses — just 2½ per cent of their stock, the best performance of any sector and close to the government target of 2 per cent. Only about half

these are suitable for letting and many of these are only empty a short time.

Around one quarter of the empty properties need minor repairs — not because of what Janet Daley calls "deliberate policy" but because repair services simply cannot cope. To blame lack of supply on the council houses awaiting repair is to ignore 95 per cent of the problem.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PERRY
(Head of policy and professional practice),
Institute of Housing,
Octavia House,
Westwood Business Park,
Westwood Way,
Coventry, Warwickshire,
June 14.

From Mr Dominic Byrne

Sir, Janet Daley rightly emphasises that it is wrong to characterise homeless people as a homogeneous group. But the suggestion that young people on the street in London choose homelessness voluntarily as a way of life is wholly unsubstantiated.

Indeed, the available evidence indicates that most young homeless people have no home to return to. A recent survey by Centrepoint found that two young people out of three are unable to return home. They have fled because of physical or sexual abuse or have become homeless since leaving care and have no family to return to.

This does not fit the idea of voluntary homelessness. Nor does the plight faced by those sleeping rough who are mentally ill, whose numbers have increased by 75 per cent in the past year, according to official statistics.

The sight of people sleeping rough and local authorities unable to house record numbers of homeless families are symptoms of a more fundamental problem, a growing shortage of affordable permanent homes. In the run-up to the general election, there is an urgent need for a national debate on how this shortage can be met.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC BYRNE
(Assistant Director),
Shelter,
88 Old Street, EC1,
June 14.

Labour and scientists

From Dr Jeremy Bray, MP for Motherwell South (Labour)

Sir, Nigel Hawkes's commentary on the Labour party's new science policy ("Labour's wrong way to engineer industry's revival", June 12) started with a factual inaccuracy. The party has not said that it would raise public spending on research and development from 1.8 per cent to 2.5 per cent of GDP. Using this wrong assumption Nigel Hawkes argued throughout his article that Labour would throw taxpayers' money at science as a solution to the country's industrial ills.

We do believe that overall expenditure on civil R&D should rise on the scale stated but that this should largely be funded by industry. That is why we will offer the strongest tax incentives allowed under EC law to aid this boost.

The Labour party cannot be accused of promoting pure science above the applied. Gordon Brown and his team have outlined a whole raft of policies that aim to improve the climate for innovation and the transfer of technology into industry. *Pushing Back the Frontiers* —

Labour's policy covering science and technology generally — reiterated this and went further.

As the level of R&D in industry increases it will be vital to increase science education and basic research efforts at the same time. Our policy for science spans schools, further and higher education, and goes on into the laboratories where the original research is done. Britain needs these policies in order to keep industry in touch with the rapid pace of technological advance and equally importantly to supply it with well trained researchers and other scientific staff.

We are concerned not only with policy for research but also research for policy. We are not simply creating new institutions but aim to forge the new attitudes that are needed. We have learned not only from the experience of the Wilson governments, but from science policy arrangements going back to the Haldane report of 1918.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY BRAY
(Opposition spokesman on science and technology),
House of Commons,
June 16.

Junk mail directive

From Mr Freddy Kosten

Sir, Your report of June 4, "Efforts to cut junk mail could backfire", quotes criticism of the European Commission draft directive on data protection, in particular that the EC plan "would lead to a devastating increase in junk mail".

Yet you also make it clear that the directive would enforce a procedure under which "promotion material" could be sent only "to those who volunteer to receive it", i.e. to those who take positive steps to "opt in" to this respect.

How do the critics of the draft directive reconcile these points?

Yours faithfully,
FREDDY KOSTEN
(Information protection consultant),
Hoskyns Group plc,
95 Wandsworth Road,
Vauxhall Cross, SW8,
June 11.

From Mr Kevin Holland

Sir, Your report quotes me as saying that the EC Commission's draft directive on data protection was "drawn up by the Germans to reflect

their stringent data protection laws". I did not say this, and I deplore any such attitude.

The nationality of the Commission's officials is irrelevant. What is objectionable in the draft is the fact that it amalgamates the most restrictive and irksome provisions to be found in the laws of various member states (including registration from the British law, just as it is proposed severely to limit it here).

Another example is the provision, based upon a misunderstanding of the French law, which appears to ban wholly automated decision processes. This would not merely undermine our plastic card society, but would prevent the targeting of postal advertising by means of selection formulae based on personal data.

As a cause of badly aimed postal advertising ("junk mail"), this would be at least as important as the provisions derived from German law.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN HOLLAND (Chairman,
Data Protection Committee),
The Advertising Association,
Abford House,
15 Wilton Road, SW1.

Two minds as one on UK heritage?

From the Chairman of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies

Sir, We have heard much from Lord Palumbo of his efforts to ensure the repair of countless historic buildings. Save Britain's Heritage has already been very effective in championing many heritage causes. The two aims seem to lie in parallel.

Now we learn (report, June 11) that Lord Palumbo and his company are to exact £125,000 from Save in costs following on the decision in the Lords on Save's challenge to demolition by Lord Palumbo of nine listed buildings at No 1 Poultry. It would seem that this could lead to Save's destruction.

Is it not time for "magnanimity in victory" on Lord Palumbo's part? It is he and his company who must have benefited to the tune of many millions by the Lords' decision.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BENSON, Chairman,
Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies,
St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4,
June 13.

Army's future

From Mr S. St John Parker

Sir, The military authorities want to reduce the size of the army, but also to retain the regimental system (report, June 5). So long as regiments are seen as units of a fixed size, any fall in total strength must entail amalgamations or abolitions, even for proud and historic units.

Surely, however, it is possible to be a little more flexible in approach? If regiments were allowed to fluctuate in size according to the army's needs, while command structures were serviced separately, tradition and esprit de corps could perfectly well coexist with efficiency. This was, after all, the principle from which the regimental system was born at the end of the seventeenth century.

Yours faithfully,
SEBASTIAN ST JOHN PARKER,
Lacies Court,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire,
June 11.

Too young to fight?

From Sir John Stephenson

Sir, You do not have to go back to the eighteenth century with Colonel King-Harman (June 13) to find a boy of 11 serving in the Royal Navy.

My great uncle, Henry Frederick Stephenson, went to sea in HMS St Jean d'Acres, his uncle Henry Keppel's ship, in 1853 at the age of 11½, saw active service against the Russians in the Baltic and, as a naval cadet, in the Crimea before he was 13; fought in the Second Chinese War (in which he was shipwrecked) and in the Indian Mutiny (with HMS Pearl's naval brigade) as a midshipman before he was 16.

He did not, like Admiral King, retire as an admiral aged 29, but reached rear-admiral's rank in 1890 and, after commanding the Channel Squadron, retired as an admiral in 1904 at the age of 62.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEPHENSON,
26 Donerail Street, SW6,
June 17.

British way of death

From Canon Geoffrey Busby

Sir, I was surprised to learn from the letter from the President of the National Association of Funeral Directors (June 12) that in 50 years of conducting funerals I had been employed by an undertaker as a subcontractor.

I have always believed that I was carrying out my duties to my parishioners. I wish I'd known.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BUSBY,
8 Yokediffe Crescent,
Wirksworth,
Derbyshire,
June 12.

Peninsula name

From the President of the Royal Geographical Society

Sir, In your Diary of June 15, you referred to the naming of a peninsula on South Georgia after Margaret Thatcher. This proposal had, you said, opponents. You went on that I, as president of the Royal Geographical Society, was concerned lest it "would offend the Argentines".

This account of my views is fiction. As you indicate, the society has taken no position on the proposal.

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN TICKELL, President,
Royal Geographical Society,
Kensington Gore, SW7,
June 17.

Short-changed

From Mr M. D. Macfarlane

Sir, Having just returned from a family holiday in France with three smallish children, all of whom required their usual pocket money (and more) in French francs and who on return then demanded instant re-conversion of all their loose change to sterling at a generous exchange rate, all I can say is roll on the ecu.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM D. MACFARLANE,
Bardon House, West Lane,
East Grinstead, West Sussex,
June 14.



BBC 1

6.00 **Crest** 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News**
9.05 **Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club** 9.30 **Travel Show**
Guides. Skating in the Austrian Tyrol (r) (Crest)
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather 10.10 **Playdays** 10.25 **Bunyip**
(r) 10.35 **The Hogan Family**, American comedy series (r)
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **High Chaparral**, vintage western series (r) 11.55 **Revolving Antiques**, caring for diamonds and cleaning rings (r) (Crest)
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **Scene Again**, Judi Spires presents show business highlights from *Scene Today* 12.25 **Hooked on Comedy**, Paul Young lands a 140lb skate on his travels through Orkney, Shetland, Lewis and Mull. Last in the series (r) 12.55 **Regional news and weather**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather 1.30 **Neighbours**, (Crest)
1.50 **Royal Ascot**, Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the 2.30, 3.05 and 3.45 races. The 4.20 race is on BBC2
4.00 **Betty Boop Double Bill** 4.10 **Rude Dog and the Dweebs** (r) 4.35 **The Movie Game**, Quiz show for young movie buffs
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Country File**, The last part of the children's drama series (r) (Crest)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r) (Crest), Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 **Inside Ulster**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather 6.30 **Regional news**, Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Wogan**, The guests are tennis stars John Mc Enroe and Pat Cash plus comic actor Leslie Nielsen and former Dallas regular Priscilla Beatty. Music is provided by singer Greta Adams
7.35 **Double Exposure**, BBC's Simpsoning American series about a precocious physician, starring Neil Patrick Harris. (Crest)
8.00 **Tomorrow's World**, The Prince of Wales Award for Innovation, 1991. The Prince of Wales opens his country home, Highgrove House, for the award ceremony, the winner having demonstrated the reliability and marketing success of the product over two years. This year's finalists are also introduced as they start their two-year proving period. Their inventions are a calamaran ferry for rough waters, an ultrasonic oil cutter, a smart bottling technique, a fence-jointing device, a tester for railway sleepers and a tyre pressure gauge. (Crest)
8.50 **Points of View** with Anne Robinson
9.00 **News O'Clock** News with Marylin Lewis. (Crest) Regional news and weather

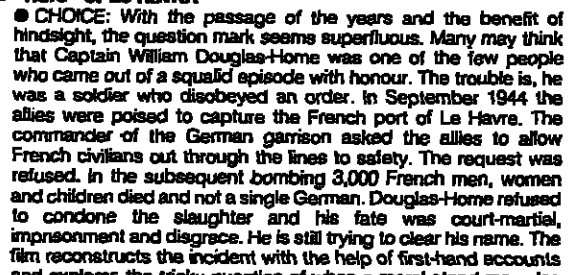


Defusing an explosive situation: a bomb disposal man (9.30pm)

9.30 **The Victim: Bomb Disposal Man**
CHOICE: This week's tale of courage from Desmond Wilcox concerns Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the men who take their lives into their hands defusing terrorist bombs. A sergeant calls it the most satisfying job in the army. A captain says he enjoys putting himself under pressure. But 18 bomb disposal experts, officially called ammunition technical officers, have been killed in Northern Ireland. Wilcox's film highlights their rigorous training course, which lasts 14 months, costs £100,000 per man and leaves no psychological scars unmarked. Even the candidate's potty training is deemed relevant to his suitability for performing under pressure. To reduce risk to the men, the army has devised a remote-controlled "wheelbarrow" which can do some of the dangerous work. But there may still be the tense ritual of the "long walk" to the suspect car or threatened building. (Crest)
10.20 **Film: Someone's Watching Me** (1976)
CHOICE: John Carpenter, creator of the *Halloween* cycle, wrote and directed this cogent thriller about a woman being terrorised by a peeping Tom in the apartment block opposite. A knowledgeable student of classic Hollywood, Carpenter based his first cinema film, *Assault on Precinct 13*, on the Howard Hawks western *Rio Bravo*. *Someone's Watching Me*, his debut in television drama, has echoes of Hitchcock and *Rear Window*. Lauren Hutton gives a gritty performance as the besieged woman, a television news director on the wrong of investigating the unexplained gifts and spine-chilling phone calls. To help the plot along, the police refuse to believe her. So, like many a movie heroine, she must go it alone. It may not be the most original of stories but Carpenter brings it up fresh, milking the tension for everything he can get
11.55 **Racing from Ascot**, Highlights of the second day's racing
12.15 **News**

BBC 2

6.45 **Open University: Television - Images, Messages and Ideologies**. Ends at 7.35
8.00 **News**
8.15 **Westminster**, A round-up of the latest news from both Houses
9.00 **Daytime on Two**
9.20 **News** and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) 2.15 **Under Salt**, Before the West. A look at the life aboard the 300th German three-masted barque *Goeben* (r) 9.25 **Country File**, John Craven investigates illegal hare coursing (r)
9.30 **News** and weather followed by *Westminster Live* 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather
4.00 **Royal Ascot** continued from BBC1. Live coverage of the 4.20 race - the Royal Hunt Cup
4.40 **Phoenix Plus**, A documentary about the Phoenix Dance company, formed in 1981. The company has worked with many of the world's top choreographers and last year teamed up with the controversial dancer Michael Clark to create a programme called *Phoenix Plus* (r)
5.10 **Horizons: The Long Road West**, A profile of optics and precision mechanics company Carl Zeiss Jena, all of whose 27,000 employees went out on strike in February at the news of 90 percent pay-offs. Jena is only one of 6,000 formerly state-owned companies in East Germany facing the problems of joining the West (r) (Crest)
6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation - The Royale**, Sci-fi series with the new concepts of the starship *Enterprise*, Captain Picard (Patrick Stewart) and his crew journey into an uncharted space system and discover a jagged chunk of metal bearing a United States Air Force insignia. Riker (Jonathan Frakes), Worf (Michael Dorn) and Data (Brent Spiner) beam down to a nearby planet hoping to resolve the mystery and find themselves in front of the casino at the Hotel Royale. (Crest)
6.45 **DEF: It Rap**, Rap Rapido, Antoine de Caunes introduces a special edition of the popular music programme, tracing the development of Rap music from its roots in African culture to the multi-million dollar industry of today. There is archive material, specially shot footage and interviews with Afrika Bambaataa, Run DMC and DJ 5000
7.40 **Cardiff Singer of the World**, Tonight's competitors in this round include Polish soprano Malgorzata Armanowska, Bulgarian bass Peter Daskalov and Israeli tenor Ilya Levinsky
8.30 **"Hero" of Le Havre?**
CHOICE: With the passage of the years and the benefit of hindsight, the question mark hangs over the man who was called Captain William Douglas-Horne was one of the few people who came out of a squalid episode with honour. The trouble is, he was a soldier who disobeyed an order. In September 1944 the allies were poised to capture the French port of Le Havre. The commander of the German garrison asked the allies to allow French civilians out through the lines to safety. The request was refused. In the subsequent bombing 3,000 French men, women and children died and not a single German. Douglas-Horne refused to condone the slaughter and his fate was court-martial, imprisonment and disgrace. He is still trying to clear his name. The film reconstructs the incident with the help of first-hand accounts and explores the tricky question of when a moral stand may also be a legal one



The soldier who said no: William Douglas-Horne (8.30pm)

9.00 **Film: National Lampoon's Vacation** (1985), After *Animal House* and *Class Reunion* came this frantically amusing comedy from the *National Lampoon* team, starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo and John Candy. The Griswold family decide to take a cross-country motor holiday to Walley World Amusement Park in California. Predictably the journey is full of misadventure - they are forced to transport the cantankerous Aunt Edna to Phoenix, Arizona, and they discover that the road to Walley World is the shambles of Randy Quaid and his strange tribe. Directed by Harold Ramis. (Crest)
10.30 **Newsnight**
11.15 **The Late Show**, Jeremy Isaacs talks to American writer Edmund White, author of the novel *A Boy's Own Story* (r).
11.55 **Weather**

ITV

6.00 **TV-am**
9.25 **Cross With**, Tom O'Connor hosts the word game show 9.55 **Thames News** and weather
10.00 **Out of This World**, Eve's Secret Admirer. Sitcom about aliens Eve (Maureen Flannigan) begins receiving mysterious notes from a secret admirer
10.30 **The Morning**, Family magazine series
12.10 **Alerts**, Children's entertainment (r)
12.30 **News** with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.10 **Thames News** and weather
1.30 **Home and Away** 1.50 **A Country Practice**
2.20 **Take the High Road**, Scottish soap set in the Highlands 2.50 **Crazy Comparisons**, Ernie Wise presenter Chris Tarrant hosts this game show in which guests Amel Croft, Nino Ferrer, Sylvester McCoy and Van Gysseghem try to guess the identity of a mystery personality
3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**
3.55 **The Raggy Dolls** (r) 4.05 **Bangers and Mash** (r) 4.20 **But Can You Do It On TV?** Children's talent contest 4.45 **Roll's Cartoon Club**, A trip into the land of imagination (r)
5.10 **Blockbusters**, Bob Holness hosts the general knowledge quiz for teenagers
5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 **Thames Help**, Clinical psychologist Dr Myra Hunter discusses the menopause
6.00 **Home and Away** (r)
6.30 **Thames News**



Say cheese: the puppet animators from Cheshire (7.00pm)

7.00 **Bushman's Holiday**, Puppet animators from Cheshire, greyhound to take from Manchester and florists from London compete in this week's edition of the travel and occupation quiz (Oracle)
7.30 **Coronation Street**, (Oracle)
8.00 **International Athletics**, Jim Roseenthal introduces live coverage from Crystal Palace of the Great Britain v Germany clash. Steve Ovett joins Alan Parry and Peter Matthews in the commentary box
9.00 **Fire**, A fly-on-the-wall look at the Kingsland fire station in Hackney, London, one of the poorest boroughs in the country. This programme focuses on the technique of the firefighters specially trained in emergency rescue, especially of people trapped in badly managed cars after road accidents, and how they cope with the stresses of the job
9.30 **Up the Garden Path**, Sue Limb's jolly sitcom about the emotional up-and-downs of a schoolteacher tazy (Melinda Staunton). She and Charles (David Robb) are engaged and his parents throw a party to celebrate with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle)
10.00 **News at Ten** with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 **Thames News**
10.40 **Film: A Small Killing** (1981), An elderly "bag lady" (Sylvia Sydney) working as a drugs courier is found with her throat slashed. A sociologist (Jean Simmons) goes undercover to bring the killers to justice, aided by a reluctant police sergeant (Ed Asner), posing as a wife. Starring David Robb and Peter Matthews in the commentary box. Directed by Steven Hilliard Stern
12.30 **Film: The Hearst and Davies Affair** (1984), Taped TV movie about the 35-year affair between media tycoon William Randolph Hearst (Robert Mitchum) and Ziegfeld girl Marion Davies (Virginia Madsen). Hearst bought Davies a film studio, handled her Hollywood on a silver platter and shamelessly promoted her limited talents in the columns of his newspaper. However, he could not marry her because his wife Millicent refused to consider divorce. Directed by David Lowell Rich
2.15 **Videofashion**, The work of Paris masters including Karl Lagerfeld, Christian Lacroix, Chanel, Givenchy and Valentino
2.40 **America's Top Ten** with Tommy Puetz and Casey Kasem
3.10 **Quiz Night**, The pub and club quiz show, hosted by Martin O'Brien
3.40 **The New Sessions**, With band *Half Man, Half Biscuit* in concert
4.10 **Truckpaved** from Lyndon Hall, Motorsport action
4.40 **Fifty Years On** (b/w), A look back to the headlines of mid-June 1941 with reports on a new rubber dinghy for the RAF, the Navy taking reinforcements to Gibraltar and Winston Churchill talking to allied leaders
5.00 **Grand Ole Opry**, Country music from Nashville, Tennessee
5.30 **ITN Morning News** presented by Anne Laurence. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **Schools**
12.00 **The Parliament Programme**, Yesterday's proceedings in the Houses of Lords and Commons
12.30 **Business Daily**
1.00 **Sesame Street** (r)
2.00 **Gallery**, Arts quiz hosted by George Melly. Regular team captains Meggy Hambling and Frank Whifford are joined by novelist Julian Mitchell and artists Fred Ingrams and Hyla Holland (r)
2.30 **Film: Oh, You Beautiful Doll** (1949), Enjoyably unpretentious musical about composer Fred Fisher (S.Z. Sakall), who besides the title song wrote *Peg O' My Heart* and *Chicago*. An unsuccessful classical composer, whose ambitious opera has gone unproduced, Fisher is persuaded by impresario Larry Kelly (Mark Stevens) to write popular tunes for the pan alky. When his songs are a success, Fisher becomes even more miserable. With June Haver and Charlotte Greenwood. Directed by John Sturt
4.15 **Magic Rolling Road**, A short film from America detailing the gravity-defying feats that can be achieved on a skateboard
4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**, Quiz show hosted by William G. Stewart
5.00 **Famous for 4 Minutes**, Ordinary Britons talk about their hopes and fears
5.05 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**, The popular discussion series assembles the cast of the hit American sitcom *A Different World* - a spin-off from *The Cosby Show* - for a question-and-answer session. Plus a demonstration of the cast's warm-up routine as led by director and former *Fame* star Debbie Allen
6.00 **A Different World**, American sitcom set on a college campus
6.30 **Beat of the World**, Terry Christian, Amanda De Cadenet and Michelle Collins present a selection of highlights from the best series of *The World* in the programme John Lyon, Kyle MacGregor, River Phoenix and Omar are featured
7.00 **Channel 4 News** presented by Jon Snow and Zennah Badawi (Teletext) Weather
7.50 **Party Political Comment** from an SDP politician
8.00 **Brookside**, Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext)



Campaigning on behalf of the consumer: Mike Embley (8.30pm)

8.30 **Check Out '91**, The consumer series returns with a topical report on whether small business get the support they need from banks in times of a recession. Plus a look at the wrappers used on mass-produced sandwiches and how advertisements encourage children to eat chocolate. Presented by Mike Embley
8.55 **International Athletics**, Live coverage of the Great Britain v Germany match from Crystal Palace
10.00 **The Golden Girls**, Sprightly sitcom about four matrons sharing a Miami house. Rose (Betty White) is visited by her daughter and granddaughter to sort out the family will and discovers that the inheritance is smaller than they had expected
10.30 **The News**, Saturday edition. *Lovers of Love*, Repeat of the third series about scheming, devious and nasty Tory MP Alan B'Slard (Rik Mayall). Mrs Thatcher (Steve Nation) departs for Dulwich and B'Slard's position as the most far-right Tory MP is put under threat by the arrival of new MP Victor Crosby (James Saxon). (Teletext)
11.00 **Manhattan Cable**, More bizarre excerpts from New York's three public access cable channels
11.45 **Four-frontiers**, A documentary about Russian anarchist Yuri Norstein that explores the paradoxes of his life. Under Brezhnev he was able to make films but not travel, under Gorbachev he is free to travel but has been prevented from completing his work on *Gogol's The Overcoat*
12.45 **Film: Teen Krazy** - Parts 2 and 3 (1991, b/w). The final parts of Satyajit Ray's fine trilogy based on short stories by Rabindranath Tagore. In *Postmaster* from a postmaster from the city travels to a small village to start a new job but he becomes disillusioned with country life. With Anil Chatterjee and Chandana Banerji. *Sampat* concerns a young city graduate who returns home to reject the wife his mother has chosen for him in favour of his true love. She, however, spurns him. With Soumitra Chatterjee and Aparna Das Gupta. In Bengali with English subtitles. Ends at 2.50

TV VARIATIONS

20.15 **News** 20.30 **News** 20.45 **News** 20.55 **News** 21.00 **News** 21.15 **News** 21.30 **News** 21.45 **News** 21.55 **News** 22.00 **News** 22.15 **News** 22.30 **News** 22.45 **News** 22.55 **News** 23.00 **News** 23.15 **News** 23.30 **News** 23.45 **News** 23.55 **News** 24.00 **News** 24.15 **News** 24.30 **News** 24.45 **News** 24.55 **News** 25.00 **News** 25.15 **News** 25.30 **News** 25.45 **News** 25.55 **News** 26.00 **News** 26.15 **News** 26.30 **News** 26.45 **News** 26.55 **News** 27.00 **News** 27.15 **News** 27.30 **News** 27.45 **News** 27.55 **News** 28.00 **News** 28.15 **News** 28.30 **News** 28.45 **News** 28.55 **News** 29.00 **News** 29.15 **News** 29.30 **News** 29.45 **News** 29.55 **News** 30.00 **News** 30.15 **News** 30.30 **News** 30.45 **News** 30.55 **News** 31.00 **News** 31.15 **News** 31.30 **News** 31.45 **News** 31.55 **News** 32.00 **News** 32.15 **News** 32.30 **News** 32.45 **News** 32.55 **News** 33.00 **News** 33.15 **News** 33.30 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No tax help for Lloyd's names

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are ready to abandon plans to launch a lifeboat operation on behalf of Lloyd's underwriting names, each facing losses of up to £100,000 because of disasters in the insurance market.

The climbdown was signalled last night by Francis Maude, financial secretary to the Treasury, in the face of what senior Treasury sources described as a "hostile reaction" by Conservative MPs to any move that snatched of bail out the rich. One insider spoke of ministers and their aides being "duffed up" by angry backbenchers after the kite-flying exercise earlier this week in which it was suggested that the names, who include nearly 60 Tory MPs and ministers, might be given a tax break worth at least £50 million.

The government retreat coincided with a similar operation by the Labour leadership in the wake of a parliamentary backlash and confusion over its stance towards Lloyd's. One senior Labour MP commented: "They got into a muddle because they were trying to be too City-friendly."

Mr Maude told the standing committee scrutinising the finance bill that the government had made no promises to Lloyd's. He also maintained that ministers were not convinced that any of the suggested tax breaks was an answer to the long-term problems facing the syndicates making up Lloyd's.

Mr Maude was replying to Ian Taylor, the Tory MP for Esher, who had proposed that Lloyd's members should be able to offset their losses in their current trading year — the disaster-prone 1988/89 — under its unusual accounting rules, against profits made in the three previous years.

But before putting forward new clause 24, Mr Taylor had effectively conceded defeat by making clear he would not press his scheme to a vote and would not bring it back on the floor of the Commons at report stage on the bill.

Meanwhile, Margaret Beckett, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said that the Opposition would not countenance offering the names, who must have substantial personal assets, back-dated tax relief, which would be "grossly over-generous".

In a letter to *The Independent*, Mrs Beckett denied that the shadow cabinet was split over the issue.



Animal magic: Lucy the sheep being groomed for an operatic career at rehearsals yesterday for *Tosca*, to be performed at Earl's Court, London, from next Sunday. The £2.5 million production will be lent a touch of realism with a supporting cast of sheep, five horses and four Great Danes

Concern at morals of Madonna generation

Continued from page 1

people to be morally wrong, 31 per cent thought it sometimes or always acceptable. The remainder were unsure.

The teenager least likely to be sexually involved lived in a home where both parents were active Christians and where there was a good relationship with the father. The average father spent three minutes a day talking to his son or daughter, who watched three hours of television a day.

The Christian researchers were also concerned by the types of films and videos watched by the youngsters, in their teens and early twenties. One in four of those aged 13, and more than half of those aged 14-15, had watched 18-rated films and videos.

The report's author, Boyd Myers, of the Marc Europe research organisation, said: "I found this quite shocking, particularly as these are church teenagers. The number

who watched 18-rated videos should be a lot less than this. It is quite frightening."

More than 1,700 people in their teens and twenties, who attend church youth groups, completed a survey questionnaire prepared by Agapé, an evangelical missionary organisation. The survey was done in January and February this year and more than half the members of 150 church youth groups took part.

Peter Meadows, of the Evangelical Alliance, said: "The moral attitudes were frightening. There is a vast difference between those of our generation who were raised on Mary Hopkins and those who are now being raised on Madonna."

The report, circulated to a limited number of Christian organisations, was prepared with the co-operation of eight denominations including the Church of England, the Methodists and the Baptists.

Gadafi scraps hostage offer

Continued from page 1

Lebanon but the extent of Colonel Gadafi's influence with the radical groups believed to be holding Terry Waite and others is unclear.

"If anyone suffers in consequence of this it will be appalling," Sir Teddy said. "If ruffians take over in Libya, then people all over the world will suffer," he added, noting that Western-educated elements in the regime appeared to be attempting to improve relations with the outside world.

"No one seriously believes that he [Gadafi] is still supporting the IRA. I'm totally mystified."

Sir Teddy said that he had visited the Foreign Office for a briefing before travelling to Tripoli last month. "I had maximum cooperation before I left but when I came back I was an embarrassment." During the briefing he was informed of the requirements for an improvement in relations between the two countries.

"The letter met all of those and more," said Sir Teddy. "Even if they didn't like it, they could have said: 'We'll have to leave it to a later date.' If your neighbour has been throwing dead cats into your garden at night, and he agrees to stop doing it, you accept and see what happens."

The MP said he would be willing to publish the text of the Libyan letter to prove his point but the only texts, in English and Arabic, were with the Foreign Office.

On Monday, Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, told the House of Commons that the government had no plan to respond to the series of proposals made by Libya. Colonel Gadafi, apparently responding to the lack of a British reply, told the Libyan General People's Congress yesterday: "I read in the newspapers: the British began to criticise us, saying Gadafi must personally apologise; Libya is a terrorist state; he is a dictator and we do not need these relations."

"It is Britain which must come. It is Britain which needs relations with Libya. It should come and kneel before Libya so that we can perhaps open the file and say we may consider the matter... to hell with Britain and relations with it until the day of judgment. To hell with America and Britain."

Gadafi: let Britain come and kneel before us now

Political sketch

No escape from flowering inferno

DOWN at the Commons, the pany war is hotting up. Eighty-four Tories, including most of the front bench, came out in pink, yesterday.

Many of those with paper petals blossoming from their lapels deny (they would, wouldn't they?) that the flowers are pansies. They claim these are pink roses, to show the wearer is a supporter of the Alexandra charitable appeal. I took a lapel count. Of the 96 Conservative MPs present, only 11 definitely aren't. Eighty-four definitely are.

John Major, I can reveal, isn't. Dame Jill Knight is a possible, but I put it no higher than that: her bosom was already such a profusion of flowers and beads that a little pansy could have got quite lost there, a thought which struck me, I remember, on our last embrace.

The Opposition were more timid. I expect that, down at the working men's club, "glad to be charitable" is a more controversial claim. Only five were out of the potting shed.

Max Madden (Lab, Bradford W) was not. Unadorned, he rose to question Virginia Bottomley about baby care units. One of these, he claimed, was now faced with closure in Bradford.

It is hard to think of anything more nauseating than MPs discussing babies. Mr Madden mixed his expressions of sympathy for the newborn with a quick nose-thump at William Waldegrave, whom he called "a wally" and sat down.

Mrs Bottomley, who started her career at the dispatch box as a likeable but apparently lightweight minister, is becoming more masterful by the hour. Power-dressed in Barclays Bank turquoise she seemed to promise personal banking, efficient smile softened only by a whisper of pink petal at the lapel. And Mr Madden was not a favoured customer. The smile vanished and she took several swipes at him.

culminating in "he should be thinking of his constituents, not his trade union". She was rewarded with a huge cheer from her own side, who are evidently under instructions from their whips to show the flag on health.

The instructions are working. Elizabeth Peacock (C, Batley & Spen) was next on her feet. It had suddenly occurred to Mrs Peacock to wonder how many problem babies are surviving their first four weeks of life, now, as compared with under the last government. Oddly enough, Mrs Bottomley had these facts ready. "Ninety per cent of low birthweight babies" are now surviving, a great improvement, apparently. There was another great cheer. The cheer was not for the low birthweight babies alone, but for a low birthweight minister who now seems to be bawling and gurgling as lustily as the rest of them.

Under Mrs Bottomley's tutelage the government benches grew bolder and the Opposition benches angrier, until Greville Janner (Lab, Leicester W) was led to describe his vision of a baby unit closing in Leicester, with "scandalous loss of lives," at which an excited John Butterfill (C, Bournemouth W), leapt up to declare that "twice as many babies died when Labour were in power." It was time for a hasty exit.

I returned to hear the prime minister congratulating Robert Rhodes James (C, Cambridge) on his knighthood. We are pleased about the honour, of course, but here's another curious change. When Margaret Thatcher was in power and Rhodes James was a minister, I distinctly remember the MP's hair being grey.

Now he is Sir Robert, and Mr Major rules, Cambridge has a sleek, dark-haired MP. Majorian reaches the parts other leaders could not reach.

MATTHEW PARRIS

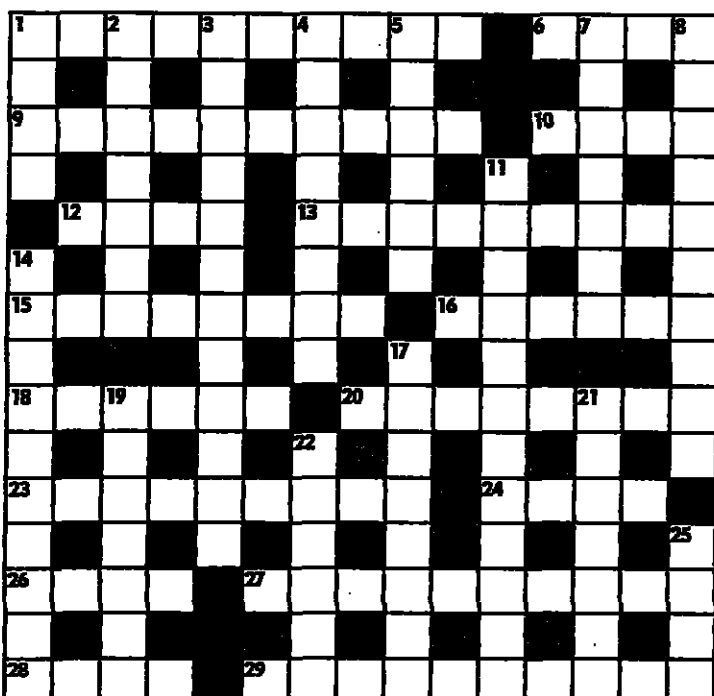
TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Beyond a joke: Bernard Levin looks for the lighter side of the Soviet ambassador to the Court of St James's, and discovers a subject too darkly serious for levity.

Prescription for problems: One third of the damages awarded against doctors involve obstetricians. Ann Kent reports on a specialty in which the consultant is as likely to find himself in the courtroom as the delivery room.

Play it again? England meet West Indies at Lord's tomorrow in one of the most eagerly awaited Test matches for years. Alan Lee assesses England's hopes of building on their success at Headingley.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,636



- ACROSS**
- Coin is put by tin for mendicant (10).
 - Proceed to satisfy the examiners (4).
 - Lords and ladies are crazed with drink (6-4).
 - Russian girl heading away from the river (4).
 - Lose everything, becoming alcoholic? (4).
 - Degenerate wanking has no descendants (3,2,4).
 - False teardrop from crocodile, say (8).
 - Tricky game — there's money in it, though (6).
 - One on farm working like grim death? (6).

- DOWN**
- Several points receiving attention (4).
 - Attribute article to old theologian (7).
 - Pretty useless sort of soldier goes to fight (9-3).
 - Spanish river runs into particularly fine lake (8).
 - Canvas for depositing with uncle — not Picasso's earliest (6).
 - Herb's panacea? (7).
 - I hear paws, as bears dig (10).
 - Love acting? Forget it! (7,5).
 - Aims for the green and gets near (10).
 - View of customer, possibly (8).
 - Chief style of the Arc de Triomphe (7).
 - Handles stolen range (7).
 - The Iron Maiden, a drama (6).
 - Lifeless, from a shot (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,635

DELIVER MAGBETH
YOWEL AUNTALLY
E L E B E H I S
R O I S T E R E D I S S U E
S E N A E M E
E V E N T N E V E R M I N D
S I S I O R E N E
C I A B L E S E L L S H O R T
O A D T I O D O
R E C K O N I N G U S U R P
U O F L H S C U
M I N D F U L T H E S E U S

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 9 per cent of the competitors at the 1991 London B regional final of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship.

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- INCUS**
a. The lucca God
b. Deep reliever
c. An ear bone
- NENE**
a. The chief Druid
b. A double negative
c. The Hawaiian goose
- SLEY**
a. A reindeer sledge
b. A wester's road
c. Canning, tricky
- RANZEL**
a. A rope ladder
b. A plait of hair
c. A search for stolen goods

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C. London (within M & S Area)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746
AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rates) and 45p per minute at all other times.	

WEATHER

The best of any sunshine will be in Scotland, although some showers are likely. The rest of the country will start cloudy, with patchy light rain being confined mainly to eastern areas. Sunny intervals later in the day. More persistent rain over southwest England will spread to the Channel Islands later. Outlook remaining cool and unsettled with rain crossing the country.

FORECAST

MIDDAY: In thunder, d-dizzle, lg-bz, sp-wm; sl-sleet; sm-snow; f-air; c-cloud; f-mist

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Apeldoorn 21 20	10	100	Madrid 22 22	10	100
Alexandria 28 28	10	100	Moscow 21 20	10	100
Algiers 25 27	10	100	Munich 22 22	10	100
Alexandria 28 28	10	100	Naples 26 26	10	100
Athens 28 28	10	100	Norwich 21 21	10	100
Bahrein 37 39	10	100	Oslo 15 15	10	100
Bangkok 31 31	10	100	Paris 22 22	10	100
Barcelona 30 30	10	100	Peking 28 28	10	100
Bombay 31 31	10	100	Perth 13 13	10	100
Buenos Aires 28 28	10	100	Prague 13 13	10	100
Calcutta 31 31	10	100	Reykjavik 13 13	10	100
Cairo 36 37	10	100	Rome 22 22	10	100
Cape Town 18 18	10	100	Saint Petersburg 13 13	10	100
Chengdu 18 18	10	100	Seoul 22 22	10	100
Chongqing 18 18	10	100	Shanghai 22 22	10	100
Cologne 17 17	10	100	Singapore 27 27	10	100
Copenhagen 17 17	10	100	Sydney 16 16	10	100
Dallas 18 18	10	100	Taipei 22 22	10	100
Darmstadt 17 17	10	100	Tokyo 22 22	10	100
Delhi 31 31	10	100	Toronto 22 22	10	100
Dhaka 31 31	10	100	Ulaanbaatar 22 22	10	100
Dublin 17 17	10	100	Warsaw 22 22	10	100
Edinburgh 17 17	10	100	Wellington 13 13	10	100
Geneva 17 17	10	100	Winnipeg 22 22	10	100
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Houston 17 17	10	100			
Kobe 17 17	10	100			
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Orlando 17 17	10	100			
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Peking 28 28	10	100			
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Portland 17 17	10	100			
Prague 13 13	10	100			
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Reykjavik 13 13	10	100			
Rio de Janeiro 17 17	10	100			
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Saint Petersburg 13 13	10	100			
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Singapore 27 27	10	100			
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Winnipeg 22 22	10	100			
Yokohama 22 22	10	100			

MANCHESTER

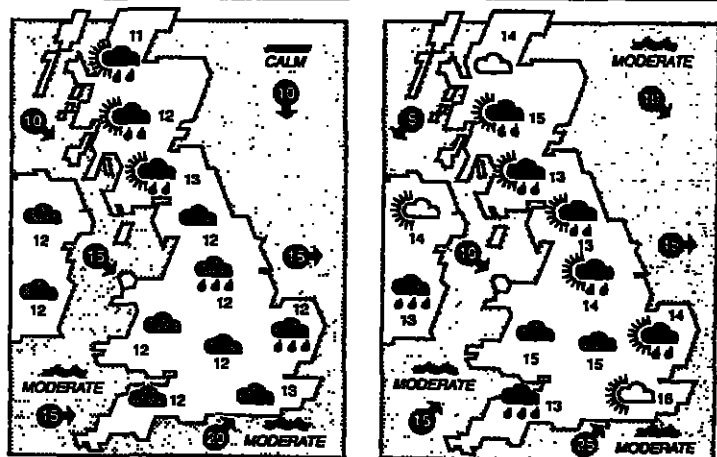
Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (50F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F); Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.18 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.8 hr.

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia \$	2,225	Italy	1,125
Austria \$	2,225	Japan	1,125
Belgium £	60.00	USA	1,125
Canada \$	1,500	West Indies	1,125
Denmark \$	1,125	Yugoslavia	1,125
France £	1,125		
Germany £	1,125		
Greece £	1,125		
Hong Kong \$	1,125		
India \$	1,125		
Italy £	1,125		
Japan ¥	24,000		
Netherlands £	1,125		
Norway £	1,125		
Portugal £	1,125		
Spain £	1,125		
Sweden £	1,125		
Switzerland £	1,125		
Turkey £	1,125		
USA \$	1,125		
Yugoslavia £	1,125		

Rates for small consumption bank only as supplied by Barclay's bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers.

THE BEST OF ANY SUNSHINE WILL BE IN SCOTLAND, ALTHOUGH SOME SHOWERS ARE LIKELY. THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WILL START CLOUDY, WITH PATCHY LIGHT RAIN BEING CONFINED MAINLY TO EASTERN AREAS. SUNNY INTERVALS LATER IN THE DAY. MORE PERSISTENT RAIN OVER SOUTHWEST ENGLAND WILL SPREAD TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS LATER. OUTLOOK REMAINING COOL AND UNSETTLED WITH RAIN CROSSING THE COUNTRY.



Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London 17 17	10	100	Madrid 22 22	10	100
Paris 22 22	10	100	Moscow 21 20	10	100
Perth 13 13	10	100	Munich 22 22	10	100
Prague 13 13	10	100	Naples 26 26	10	100
Reykjavik 13 13	10	100	Norwich 21 21	10	100
Rome 22 22	10	100	Oslo 15 15	10	100
Saint Petersburg 13 13	10	100	Paris 22 22	10	100
Seoul 22 22	10	100	Peking 28 28	10	100
Shanghai 22 22	10	100	Perth 13 13	10	100
Singapore 27 27	10	100	Prague 13 13	10	100
Sydney 16 16	10	100	Reykjavik 13 13	10	100
Taipei 22 22	10	100	Rome 22 22	10	100
Tokyo 22 22	10	100	Saint Petersburg 13 13	10	100
Toronto 22 22	10	100	Seoul 22 22	10	100
Ulaanbaatar 22 22	10	100	Shanghai 22 22	10	100
Warsaw 22 22	10	100	Singapore 27 27	10	100
Wellington 13 13	10	100	Sydney 16 16	10	100
Winnipeg 22 22	10	100	Taipei 22 22	10	100
Yokohama 22 22	10	100	Tokyo 22 22	10	100

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Lowest, 18C (64F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, northern Scotland, 8C (46F); highest night: Bristol, 0.48 in; highest sunshine: Morecambe, Lancashire, 11.4 hr.

Political sketch
to escape from
lowering inferno

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-28
- MEDIA 27
- RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY 33
- SPORT 36-40

THE TIMES BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19 1991

21
Business Editor
John Bell

Charter provision at £27m

CHARTER Consolidated has made a £27 million extraordinary provision against Anderson Group, the wholly-owned subsidiary that relies heavily on British Coal. Charter fears that Coal's reduced capital investment and shrinking business will damage Anderson.

Jeffrey Herbert, Charter's chief executive, said the provision was made up of £10 million of costs, with the balance in book writedowns. Anderson's workforce in Britain had been reduced by 700 to about 1,000 in the last 12 months.

Charter's pre-tax profits for the year to end-March were a record £77.5 million (£75.8 million), and the final dividend of 14p (13p) makes 21p (19.5p) for the year. Net cash holdings totalled £133 million at year end. *Tempos, page 23*

ECC sells

New London, the oil service and production group, is paying \$21.5 million for International Drilling Fluids, a subsidiary of ECC Group, and will take on IDP's \$26 million debts. The initial payment of \$5 million and working capital needs will be financed by a \$10 million loan note issue to Electra Private Equity Partners. ECC's disposal programme has raised £65 million in the last 17 months.

Frogmore plea

Dennis Cope, the chairman of Frogmore, has sent a final document to his shareholders urging them to continue to reject the £140 million bid from Southend Property Holdings. The offer closes in five days' time. *Tempos, page 23*

Property hope

DJ Freeman, the City law firm, says new instructions in the property market rose 86.5 per cent on the month in May, raising hopes that the worst recession in the sector since the mid-Seventies may be fading.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6120 (-0.0130)
German mark 2.9234 (+0.0025)
Exchange index 89.3 (-0.1)

Stocks

FT 30 Share 1971.9 (-5.7)
FT-SE 100 2516.0 (-8.0)
New York Dow Jones 2986.58 (-7.38)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24885.47 (-257.62)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Tibury Group 702 1/2p (+8p)
Laporte 555 1/2p (+14p)
Rentokil 325p (+8p)
Yorkshire Cream 432p (+8p)
BET 186p (+12p)
Broken Hill 594 1/2p (+8p)
Satan Healthcare 197 1/2p (+5p)
Whitman 455p (+15p)
FALLS:
Carlton Comm 479p (-10p)
Northernair 55 1/2p (-7p)
Glynwed 224p (-5p)
Taco 223 1/2p (-7p)
Ranger 428p (-8p)
Hawker Siddeley 568 1/2p (-14p)
Charter Cars 464p (-11p)
Kwik Save 607p (-12p)
Steadley 346 1/2p (-13p)
RM Douglas 442 1/2p (-12p)
J Sainsbury 351 1/2p (-15p)
Argyll 285p (-12p)
Closing Prices...Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11 1/4%
3-month interbank 11 1/4-11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 7/8-10 3/4%
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.81-5.80%
30-year bonds 9 1/4-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.6120
£: DM2.9234
£: Sfr4.5172
£: FF9.5372
£: Yen227.05
£: Index28.3
ECU £0.701677
£: ECU1.424548

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$380.00 per \$70.25
close \$370.25-370.75 (\$228.75-230.25)
New York:
Comex \$370.75-371.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$18.10 bbl (\$17.85)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.5 May (1987=100)

Output and productivity fall sharply

Grim figures hurt hopes for recovery

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL output tumbled a provisional 2.7 per cent in April, more than reversing the 0.4 per cent rise reported for March. In the latest three months, manufacturing declined 1 per cent from the previous quarter and was 6 per cent down from the same period last year.

The disappointing output data were accompanied by other official figures that showed a sharp fall in productivity and a dramatic deterioration in government finances.

The statistics were issued as the pound experienced a fresh bout of weakness that further undermined the scope for an early cut in interest rates.

The Central Statistical Office estimates that the downturn in manufacturing, the sector hardest hit by recession, has slowed, but is still falling at an annual 6.5 per cent, with declines on a broad front. The trend figure was set at 7.5 per cent in March.

Production in manufacturing, which has fallen since April last year, dropped 0.5 per cent in April, more than reversing the 0.4 per cent rise reported for March. In the latest three months, manufacturing declined 1 per cent from the previous quarter and was 6 per cent down from the same period last year.

Overall industrial production, which includes the volatile energy sector, rose 0.3 per cent in the latest three month period, but was 4.1 per cent down on the year before.

Glenn Davies, chief economist at Credit Lyonnais, said the figures raised fears of a "second dip" in the recession, with an accompanying surge in unemployment, as confidence falters in the absence of the promised recovery.

Unit labour costs in manufacturing jumped from 10.9 per cent in the three months to March to 11.4 per cent in the three months to April, the highest since May 1984, as earnings grew faster than out-

put. Productivity in the same period dropped 2.4 per cent from a fall of 1.9 per cent.

Gordon Brown, the shadow industry secretary, said the figures pointed to Britain losing £12.1 billion in manufacturing output since the recession started, and called for an immediate cut in interest rates to prevent lasting damage to industrial capacity.

Treasury figures, meanwhile, showed a public sector borrowing requirement of £3.61 billion in May, the highest monthly borrowing since March 1988, after £1.99 billion in April.

A worsening financial situation is likely to cause serious embarrassment for the government, which has stressed its strength in good house-keeping.

The borrowing surge, which government officials attributed to low poll tax receipts and slow inflows of higher VAT, took the total for the first two months of the fiscal year to £5.6 billion, making the government forecast of £8 billion for the whole year look highly optimistic.

Given political pressures on the government to relax the reins on spending in the run-up to the election, City economists revised their borrowing forecasts upwards.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Midland Montagu, said the only sign of growth in the latest figures was to be found in government spending. He rejected the Treasury view that poll tax and VAT distortions were to blame. He now expects a PSBR of £12 billion this year, up £3 billion from his original forecast.

The brisk pace of borrowing this year was seen as evidence of a looser approach to expenditure. Chris Dillow, economist at Nomura Research Institute, expects an increase of 2 per cent above Treasury limits in public spending this year.

The pound lost more ground to the surging dollar, which hit a 19-month high of DM1.8155 before profit-taking brought it lower.

At the London close, sterling was 1.30 cents lower at \$1.6120, after falling to \$1.6055, its lowest since March last year. It dropped to DM2.9173 at one point, before recovering to close at DM2.9234, slightly up on Monday.

The trade-weighted index ended 0.1 down at 89.3.

Parliament, page 8
Tap turned off, page 23

Comment, page 23

Water regulator to review prices

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

IAN Byatt, the director general of water services, is to review the price limits for water companies before the annual setting of price increases next April, because of recently announced profits and dividend rises for 1990-1.

These increases have been higher than expected when the price limits were set for ten years, in relation to inflation, at the time of privatisation.

The price limit for at least one company, South West Water, will probably be raised significantly. Tighter environmental standards imposed since privatisation will increase its investment programme by more than 35 per cent, more than any other group.

Mr Byatt wants consumers to play a bigger part in making proposals.

Mr Byatt said: "Future price limits will be set on the basis of our view of the cost of capital".

Mr Byatt also thinks companies could borrow more instead of obliging consumers to pay so much of the cost of capital spending. "A man from Mars, or even from America, might wonder why gearing for utility companies was so low", he said.

After imposing new rules on

diversification, Mr Byatt said he was discussing with Severn Trent the implications of its £212 million acquisition of Biffa the waste management group, which was financed by borrowings, although these had no recourse to the group's core business.

Metering of domestic water supplies was favoured by nearly half the respondents in an Ofwat survey. The regulator's annual report records that it received nearly 5,000 complaints, mostly about bills, with customers in the Welsh, Severn Trent and South West regions making most complaints and those in the Thames region least.

Mr Byatt said he was not happy about companies' infrastructure charges and would cast "a beady eye" in his five-year review to make sure new customers were not paying twice.

In 1989-90, when the industry's investment target was £1.8 billion, the privatised groups generally met their target overall but the smaller water companies underspent by 35 per cent.

Parliament, page 8
Tap turned off, page 23

Comment, page 23

Scottish power shares traded

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Lang: achieved ambition

MORE than 10 per cent of the shares in Hydro-Electric were thought to have changed hands yesterday, after trading began in the two newly privatised Scottish electricity companies.

Part-paid shares in Hydro ended the day at 122p, a 22p premium over the offer price. Shares in Scottish Power, the larger of the two companies, closed at 115 1/2p, after 6 1/2 per cent of the stock was traded.

The premiums were well below those registered in first-

day trading in the shares of the 12 English and Welsh regional electricity supply companies, last December, and the two main generating companies, which were sold in February.

Advisers to Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, professed themselves satisfied. They said the premiums were evidence that the issue has been priced correctly. Mr Lang said he had achieved government ambitions to widen share ownership in Scotland.

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Fresh issue: Lord Sainsbury at the National Gallery yesterday after presenting Sainsbury's award for arts education

Sainsbury launches its first cash call

J SAINSBURY, Britain's biggest supermarket group, has launched its first rights issue, a £489 million fund-raising to help finance its continuing expansion programme.

Shareholders are being offered one new share for every ten held, at 312p each, compared with a closing stock market price of 352p, which was 13p down on the day.

The Sainsbury family, owners of 46.9 per cent of the company's shares, will not, however, take up most of their "rights", which would have cost them £232 million, and will see their holding diluted to about 43 per cent.

Of the shares to which they were entitled, 70.1 million were sold in the market yesterday for 342p a share, raising £17.5 million, or 25p a share for the family, of which £13.4 million will be ploughed back through subscription for 4.3 million shares. The deal also raised £3.5 million, 5p a share, for SG Warburg.

Sainsbury's rights issue is the third from Britain's supermarket groups this year, after a £572 million call by Tesco and the £387 million fund-raising by Argyll, the Sainsbury group.

David Sainsbury, the deputy chairman, said the cash was being raised to take advantage of the many opportunities for store development throughout the group, including in America, where it runs Shaw's, the New England chain. He also identified stationery and toiletries as possible areas of expansion.

In the year ended last March, the group capital expenditure totalled £780 million. This is expected to grow by 10 per cent this year and for the foreseeable future.

The rights issue cash will cut group gearing from 44 per cent to about 13 per cent.

Comment, page 23

Warning on coal sell-off

By ROSS TIEHAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT ambitions for the privatisation of British Coal have been jolted by a warning from Dr Michael Clark, chairman of the Commons Energy Select Committee, that unadulterated market forces would bring an unacceptable contraction of Britain's coal industry.

Dr Clark called for the creation of a state-owned holding company to own Britain's deep mines and preserve a strategic indigenous energy production capacity.

He also called for changes in the regulation of the electricity industry so that regional supply companies can buy their own coal and require generators to process it into electricity for them.

Dr Clark told a London conference on the privatisation of British Coal organised by the free market Adam

Smith Institute: "Let no one think that it does not matter if we let the British coal resources remain unexploited due to political dogmatism."

Dr Clark's words carry especial weight because they are his first public comment since the completion of a select committee enquiry into clean coal technology and the future of the coal industry.

Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, welcomed his comments. "Our view has been all along that people are failing to recognise the importance of the coal industry in this country," he said.

But Roy Lynk, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said: "It is the worst of both worlds."

Dr Clark said that while privatisation would increase the effectiveness of the coal industry, great difficulties had

to be overcome in preparing it for sale. British Coal would only be saleable if it had long term contracts. Present contracts expire in 1993.

Proceeds from the sale might not exceed the corporation's liabilities for subsidisation, restructuring and unsuccessful investments in new capacity. And he warned: "There will not be continuity of the enterprise at the size which may be required by the first or second decade of the next century."

Dr Clark suggested selling open cast operations to trade buyers. For the 50 deep mines he proposed a government-owned holding company that would own and manage coal reserves, underground workings and colliery assets and infrastructure. It would franchise or sell operation of the mines to private companies.

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Parretti loses seat on board of MGM

From PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

GIANCARLO Parretti, the Italian financier, was ousted yesterday as a director of MGM, amid a strongly worded lawsuit alleging serious mismanagement.

Signor Parretti was replaced as chairman of the loss-making studio last April when Credit Lyonnais, its chief banker, took control. But Signor Parretti was allowed to stay on as a director, providing he did not interfere with the new management.

In a lawsuit filed in Delaware, Credit Lyonnais alleged that Signor Parretti, his wife, Maria Cecconi, and Yoram Globus, a fellow director, breached that contract after a board meeting last Friday, called at short notice and without sufficient directors to comply with the company's rules.

The lawsuit alleges that since he was ousted as chairman, and replaced by Alan Ladd, Signor Parretti has repeatedly tried to exert his authority over the new management. Last Friday's board meeting is alleged to have been sought to challenge the authority of Mr Ladd.

Credit Lyonnais is trying to find a buyer for the 40 per cent in MGM taken from Signor Parretti when it assumed control.

Second ombudsman to deal with societies' complaints

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

A SECOND building societies ombudsman is to be appointed in an attempt to keep pace with the increasing number of complaints. Stephen Edell, the existing ombudsman made rulings on 361 cases last year, an increase of more than 50 per cent.

Mr Edell's office disposed of a total of 2,282 complaints during the year and recorded that the number had trebled since the scheme was set up in 1987. Under the scheme, only the ombudsman is legally empowered to take decisions and this limits the number of cases that can be decided in a year.

The number of complaints received was 2,577, according to the ombudsman's annual report. The system of recording complaints was changed during the year, disguising the increase in complaints by more than half. They were the highest ever in the first quarter of this year, at 845.

Complaints about repossession more than doubled to 75 during 1990-1. Most concerned whether the society sold a property as quickly as it could or obtained an adequate price. Because it takes months, if not years, between a society deciding to repossess a property and the property



Edell: complaints against societies have trebled

finally being sold, the ombudsman has yet to adjudicate on any properties repossessed in the last year.

Problems with insurance policies taken out to meet mortgage payments in the event of redundancy or long term illness also increased. For the first time complaints about insurance, a total of 236, outnumbered those con-

cerning cash dispensers, which stood at 188. In the previous year there had been 246 complaints about automatic teller machines (ATMs).

The ombudsman has sent a questionnaire to all societies with ATMs after the confirmation by Clydesdale Bank during the year that one of its engineers was helping police with enquiries into unauthor-

ised withdrawals from machines. He wants to find out if unauthorised withdrawals could be made from customers' accounts.

Mr Edell said he would not make an decision about ATM cases until the results were analysed.

"An assessment of the responses, which I anticipate making in consultation with the banking ombudsman, who is carrying out a similar exercise, will enable me to decide on the degree of probability of withdrawals having been made by a fraud... in each individual case."

The ombudsman decided in favour of societies in 63 per cent of cases. Many cases were settled by societies after the customer contacted his office, reported Mr Edell. Others were settled without a formal decision being necessary.

The largest award was for more than £23,000. It involved money being withdrawn using forged signatures. The smallest was £5.28.

Mr Edell ruled that societies did not have a duty to inform individual investors when they introduced accounts offering better rates of interest. They should make sure that information was provided on closed and new accounts in branches and literature.

CBI chief backs EMU for Britain

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, waded into the political storm over Britain's role in Europe with a call for the government to back economic and monetary union.

He said that "some MPs" with using the debate over sovereignty "as a way of attempting to preserve privileges that are certainly outdated, even if they have not proved damaging to our economy."

Mr Banham said foreign exchange transactions pushed up industry's costs, and that failure to participate in EMU would cut the inflow of foreign investment to Britain.

The director general's comments suggest the CBI's increasing willingness to intervene in politics in the run-up to a general election.

"Accepting a single currency does not mean accepting a federal union, the Social Charter, a European industrial policy or a Fortress Europe," Mr Banham told members of the British Printing Industries Federation in London. "On the contrary, Britain's ability to reject these pernicious notions would be enhanced by full participation in Economic and Monetary Union."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

K-III completes deal with News Corp

K-III Holdings has completed the purchase of nine publications, including eight magazines and *Daily Racing Form*, from The News Corporation. Under the terms of the agreement announced on May 23, The News Corporation received a cash payment of \$600 million and will receive deferred payments of \$50 million.

The titles, representing some of the best-known names in American publishing, will be part of K-III Magazine Corporation. K-III Holdings' newly formed consumer magazine group, William Reilly, the chairman and chief executive of K-III Holdings, will serve as chairman of the group and as acting president, pending appointment of a permanent president. He said that "each of these magazines holds strong franchises", while the strength of the group afforded the opportunity to support other magazines.

Cray bid fails BICC names Davidson

CRAY Electronics Holdings has failed in its £111 million cash bid for SD-Scicon, the computer software company. Acceptances were received for 25.1 per cent of ordinary shares and 25.6 per cent of preference shares. Last week, Electronic Data Systems topped Cray's bid with £116 million.

BICC has appointed Sir Robert Davidson as chairman of Balfour Beatty, its construction group subsidiary, from July 15. Sir Robert, who has also been appointed a non-executive director of BICC, takes over the Balfour chairmanship from Robin Biggam, BICC's chief executive.

Butte reduces loss

BUTTE Mining, now under the chairmanship of David Lloyd-Jacob, a former managing director of Consolidated Gold Fields, reports a reduced pre-tax loss of \$931,000 for the six months to end-December compared with a pre-tax loss of \$1.37 million in the immediately preceding six months.

Butte has bought two Australian gold producers and has scaled down mining operations in Montana, America. The company is changing its year-end from December 31 to June 30. The next annual report will cover an 18-month period.

Arena gains video rights AAH teams up with ICI

Robert Maxwell's Arena Entertainment has decided to enter the American video game market after the company obtained the rights to develop video games based on films such as *Predator 2* and *Back to the Future III*. Arena is a subsidiary of Maxwell Entertainment Group.

THE direct supply to hospitals of products by ICI Pharmaceuticals (UK) and Stuart Pharmaceuticals, its subsidiary, is to be taken over by AAH Holdings, the specialist distributor, from July 1. Hospitals would gain through cost benefits and reduced paperwork, ICI said.

Change at Hickson

SIR Gordon Jones, chairman of Yorkshire Water, is to become non-executive chairman of Hickson International, the troubled chemicals group based in Yorkshire. Hickson is in the throes of reorganisation after an unexpectedly sharp fall in profits last year.

Sir Gordon replaces Tom Robson, who became chairman last November when Ken Schofield moved in as chief executive. Dr David Fyfe has joined Hickson to run its fine chemicals division.

Japan's economy grows at fastest rate in 18 years

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EXPORTS helped the Japanese economy achieve its fastest growth in 18 years in the first quarter this year, with the prospect that the record boom of the Sixties will be exceeded this summer, Economic Planning Agency officials said.

Gross national product was up 2.7 per cent on the previous three months, giving an annual growth rate of 11.2 per cent, the highest since the first quarter of 1973.

The latest first quarter saw a sharp rebound from the final quarter last year, when the economy grew a modest 0.6 per cent to give an annual growth of 2.6 per cent. The data dashed hopes of an early easing in monetary policy.

In the year to end-March, Japan grew 5.7 per cent, mainly supported by domestic demand, against 4.8 per cent growth the previous year. In the first quarter this year, exports were 5.7 per cent up on the previous quarter, while imports fell 2.3 per cent.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, commenting on the latest economic data on America, said they suggested that the recession in America was bottoming out during the current quarter.

Testifying to the House ways and means committee, however, he said: "We don't see any measurable uphill thrust."

Productivity improvements implemented by businesses to reduce costs during the recession meant that unemployment would be slower to improve during the recovery, he said. In its early stages, he said he expected recovery to be more evident in the output of goods and services. Mr Greenspan favours taxation on petrol to reduce energy consumption, but opposes other taxation increases that might damage the economy.

David Mullins, governor of the Fed, meanwhile, told the Senate banking committee that he expects the American economy to start expanding again between July and September. Unemployment was likely to peak by the third quarter and fall by the end of the year. He added, however, that easing credit further would run the risk of pushing long-term interest rates higher, which could make the recession more severe.

American housing starts rose 0.1 per cent last month, the third increase in the past four months, commerce department figures showed. This followed a revised 8.2 per cent rise in April.

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Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 4th July, 1991 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the SECOND PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 31st July, 1991. The dividend will be paid on 1st August, 1991.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, BN12 6DA, not later than 3.00pm on Thursday, 4th July, 1991.

Shell Centre London SE1 7NA 19th June, 1991

By Order of the Board
J.A. Camille
Company Secretary

FORTUNA HOLDING COMPANY PLC PAYMENT OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND for the year ended 31st December, 1990 of US\$ 3.00 per share has been declared payable on the "A" ordinary shares of US\$ 10 each, and US\$ 0.30 per "B" ordinary share of US\$ 1.00 each to shareholders registered as such on the register of shareholders on 31 December 1990.

The dividend is payable in Geneva on and after 30th May 1991, and holders of SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER should lodge COUPON NO. 11 for payment at "BANQUE PARISIENNE (SUISSE)", 1 rue de la Rôtisserie, CH-1211 Geneva 3.

By order of the Board
J.G. CHARRIER
Secretary

30th May 1991

No economic upturn in sight

COMMENT

The vicious circle which was all too predictable after last year's mismanaged entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism, seems to have started spinning in earnest. The slow of economic figures published this month — ranging from unemployment and the distributive trades survey last week to Monday's retail sales and yesterday's production statistics — have confirmed the anecdotal evidence from company chairmen, retailers, building societies and estate agents. The fleeting signs of an economic upturn immediately after the Gulf war were just a blip. If next Monday's CBI monthly trends inquiry confirms the message from the May survey, the sudden rebound in business confidence registered in April will also have to be dismissed as a post-Gulf aberration. The picture of the economy going into the summer will then be depressingly consistent and complete.

Britain remains deeply stuck in recession. And with the holiday season approaching there will be little hope of a recovery in consumption, housing or invest-

ment demand until the last quarter of the year. Worse still, the danger of repeating last autumn's sudden drop in demand and output cannot be discounted if manufacturers reopen their order books after the holidays and find themselves staring at blank pages.

The worst part of all this is that the government seems to be powerless to help. The weakness of sterling virtually rules out a further cut in interest rates, at least according to the Treasury's masochistic interpretation of the ERM rules. As a result, the long-familiar vicious circle of ERM membership takes another turn: recession leads to political unpopularity, which leads to pre-election sterling weakness, which leads to monetary paralysis, which leads to deeper recession and more unpopularity.

Throw in the possibility of a further rise in German interest rates and the flimsiness of the support for sterling provided by

the so-called peseta floor, and there are all the makings of an old-fashioned crisis of confidence in sterling and the political future. Surely there is a better way.

The Treasury must realise that harping on about inflation is not going to spark a recovery or even increase confidence in sterling. What industrialists, consumers, voters and even currency speculators now require is clear evidence of the government's commitment to economic growth. The only way to send this message is to cut interest rates boldly, even if that means allowing sterling to fall to the bottom of its ERM band, not only against the peseta but also against the Deutschmark. At its absolute floor of DM2.78, the pound would not need to be supported with interest rates any

higher than Germany's. The Bank of England's reserves, the reputation of the ERM as a whole, the evidence of economic recovery and the government's rising opinion poll ratings might do the job well enough. But the Treasury must stop dithering, by the autumn it may be too late to avoid another turn of the vicious circle.

Store wars

It was almost possible to see Asda's new boss, Sir Godfrey Messervy, wince yesterday as Sainsbury's plundered City purses for £489 million of extra shopping money.

Not only does the Sainsbury move, hard on the heels of Tesco's £572 million fund-raising and Argyl's £387 million,

underline the aggressive expansionary mood at the top end of the food retailing market at present, it also soaks up a large chunk of any cash that the City will have earmarked for investment in the sector.

Asda, in particular, struggling under a mountain of debt, and casting around for a new helmsman in the wake of the departure this month of John Hardman, was widely rumoured to have been considering a rights issue. It could certainly use one.

It will be all the more galling that Sainsbury does not really need the money. The Sainsburys have guided their family company to number one position in the food retail league — they claim 12.7 per cent of the market, with Tesco "a little under that" — without turning to shareholders before, and are now doing no more than taking advantage of a rare institutional appetite for their shares.

David Sainsbury had little that

was new to say on expansion plans, even though the numbers continue to boggle the mind. In five years the group has spent £2.7 billion building and rebuilding its shops, and has almost doubled its selling area to 12.2 million sq ft. Shareholders have benefited with 20 per cent dividend increases, or more, in each of the past dozen years.

It is astonishing to think that Sainsbury's can go on growing by 8 per cent a year for the next ten years, as Mr Sainsbury believes, even though his words essentially only mirror what Sir Ian MacLaurin believes is possible at Tesco. Britons will be no greater in number a decade from now, and presumably we will not, individually, be eating any more.

The conclusion, however unpalatable from a competition standpoint, is simple. Sainsbury and Tesco will emerge as a virtual duopoly in food retailing, with only the Argyl group's Safeway chain as a possible challenger. This leaves the future of the likes of Asda still more uncertain. All of which should stop nobody who can afford it from taking up their rights.

Water watchdog turns off tap on industry's excesses

UTILITIES are under hostile scrutiny. Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, has a particularly tricky brief. He must regulate the finances of the privatised water groups in the interests of consumers, ensure that they are prosperous enough to carry out their £28 billion investment programme and justify the hefty and continuing price rises.

He also wants to convince a sceptical Labour party, which is still committed to some nationalisation, that the complex existing regime works. To do this, he will need to demonstrate that his regulatory powers can be used to deliver higher standards at the lowest practical cost.

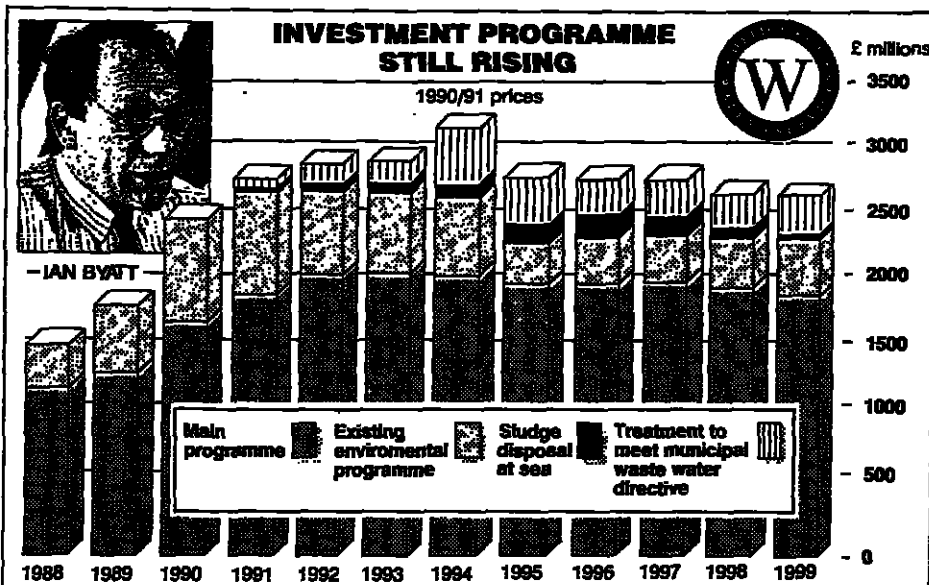
The companies are gradually beginning to realise what this means. The regulator is going to be tough, interfering more than ever. In the interests of the industry, they will have to put up with it.

The ten privatised groups have been vying with each other over the past year to show investors how well they can save costs, increase profits and diversify dynamically into unregulated businesses. Financial institutions, which bought a weighted package of shares on privatisation, will finally have to choose once the package breaks up next month.

Profits rose more in 1990-1 than expected when the price control regime was worked out. This will be repeated in 1991-2. Some have benefited from high interest rates on the cash injected as a "green dowry" on privatisation. Others have saved interest by borrowing at lower rates, or by leasing deals that exploit their accumulated corporation tax allowances.

Construction costs have been held back by the slump in the building industry. There have been efficiency gains and costs have generally risen less than the retail price increase, which determines permitted price rises.

From these higher profits, even the most cautious companies have increased their dividends by more than expected at the end of 1989. This is mainly because of inflation. Yet even Anglian, whose 14.3



per cent dividend rise is the lowest so far declared for 1990-1, has stretched the original guidelines, which assumed dividend rises averaging about 4 per cent more than inflation. Last November, the reference month for price rises, the RPI showed a 9.7 per cent annual rise.

Such munificence is unlikely to be repeated. In a few weeks, Mr Byatt will issue a review of the cost of capital, in which he will conclude that experience since privatisation shows the companies do not need to make such high returns.

This will be based in part on share prices, which have risen

factors, the amount by which companies are allowed to raise prices above inflation. But Mr Byatt will not wait until then.

He will review the K factors this year, because of the higher than expected profits and dividends. Of the privatised groups, only Yorkshire and Southern have thus far raised prices less than permitted.

This year's review is likely to result in changes in K factors for setting 1992-3 prices next April.

Customers may not notice a big benefit. The savings must be set against the extra spending, especially between 1992 and 1995, imposed since

stretch his powers. Variations in construction inflation, or delays in investment, were always expected to be considered. But Mr Byatt will also take account of other prices and costs that have risen by less than last November's RPI.

The powers have already been stretched in the new diversification rules. While the director general was entitled to change the licence to ensure that outside ventures should not endanger the core business by pre-empting resources, he is also insisting informally that he should be notified of any big or controversial moves into unregulated business in advance.

Mr Byatt says he has tried to close the stable door before horses have bolted, but talks are being held on the Biffa acquisition by Severn Trent, which may find itself on Byatt's fork. If it can afford more borrowing, it could raise prices less, since consumers need only pay the interest. If not, it could endanger the core business.

The City may have to rethink the water industry, downgrading future dividend rises, raising borrowing estimates and expecting more future share issues. The silver lining is that the regulator's toughness may reduce the political risk.

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CHARTER Consolidated must be feeling that the sins of the past will forever haunt it.

Results for the year to end-March contain a £27 million extraordinary "event", to follow Charter's word, concerning yet more redundancies and book writedowns at Anderson, its mining equipment group.

"Not again!", was the aside of one Charter watcher, but then if this really is the final clearing of the decks at Anderson, a situation the "new" Charter management largely inherited, then perhaps next year and the one after will see the skills that are promised to turn Charter into a real operating company become evident.

Meanwhile, treasury management that generated £19.2 million (£16.8 million) of net interest received still beats any of Charter's operating businesses in terms of absolute profit contribution. Charter's net cash, of £133 million, is also useful muscle in a recession and when prices of target companies are more realistic.

Annual group pre-tax profits, at a record £77.5 million (£75.8 million) come after a

TEMPUS

Charter net cast wider to escape recession in UK

£2.4 million charge for cost reductions at Cape (66.9 per cent owned), and were made against sorely depressed business conditions.

Pandrol, the railway track group, saw operating profits rise 77 per cent to £10.8 million, and Charter benefited from Johnson Matthey's better year, of which there should be more to come.

Anderson was undone by a shrinking British Coal, which makes urgent Charter's goal to spread its geographical profits net away from Britain, whose economic prospects are grim and which accounts for 55 per cent of profits.

Pre-tax profits this year

could inch forward to £80 million, and at 464p, down 11p, the shares trade on ten times earnings, backed by a 6 per cent yield. They have defensive merits.

Frogmore

SOME 14 months ago, a 725p-a-share cash bid from P&O and Chelmsfield was sufficient to secure control of Laing Properties despite the fact that the £480 million bid was some 20 per cent below Laing's stated net assets.

Given what has happened to the commercial property market since, there is absolutely no doubt that a cash

bid at a 20 per cent discount to Frogmore Estates' stated net asset value of 459p would be successful. Something about 365p would have done it.

Sadly, however, that is not what is being offered by Southend Property Holdings. Its final 350p-a-share offer, valuing Frogmore at £140 million, is a complex mixture of ordinary and convertible preference shares, plus just 20p in cash. Bluntly, that is not enough.

Malcolm Dagul, Southend's chairman, has fought a good campaign, although his enthusiasm for examining the perks and service contracts of the Frogmore board has raised a few eyebrows. However, without a full cash alternative, his Achilles' heel has been Southend's failure to report its results for the year to end-March during the offer period, now five days from its end.

Mr Dagul is a proven bull market player. He may yet emerge as equally capable in the current property slump. But in the absence of those results, Frogmore shareholders cannot make a judgment and cannot accept the offer.

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The leading investment and merchant banks across Europe have always been the leading local market operators. This remains true.

Euromobiliare SpA in Italy, Trinkaus and Burkhart KGaA in Germany, Guyerzeller Bank A.G. in Switzerland, Midland Bank S.A. in France and others in key economies such as Spain, Norway, Sweden and Greece.

Yet all these are also part of Midland Group's merchant banking network, brought together under Midland Montagu, with Samuel Montagu & Co Ltd being the focus in the UK.

These institutions are regarded in their own countries as leading domestic banks and control significant local market share. As such they are naturally part of the local financial infrastructure and an integral partner of local business. Within a powerful network, they provide undoubted local market strength, contacts at the highest levels and individual product expertise that is vital for cross border success.

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- MIDLAND MONTAGU FININTIER S.A. Lisbon
- SAMUEL MONTAGU & CO. LIMITED London
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Yassukovich turns poacher

AN ITALIAN family feud, Brazilian soap powder and a few hundred million pounds to invest. In the middle is Stanislav Yassukovich, former head of The Securities Association, who took up his latest City job yesterday. He joined bankers and advisers at the Savoy for the launch of Cragotti & Partners, an investment boutique that aims to take majority stakes in a range of companies. "Having been gamekeeper I have turned to poaching," says Yassukovich, who is running the London side of the operation. An early investment is a company supplying soap powder in Brazil. Sergio Cragotti, the founder, is a close associate of Raul Gardini who was ousted a week ago as head of the Ferruzzi-Montedison empire. Italian pressmen at the launch wanted to know if Gardini, who married into the Ferruzzi family, would have a place in the new boutique.

Legal's loss

INSURERS and fund managers will be sad to hear that Gordon Macdonald, chief press officer at Legal & General, died suddenly of a heart attack, on Monday, aged 37. When L&G made Michelle

J. SAINSBURY



"I'm trying to find the 'big by' date"

Barber its first female fund manager two years ago, it was Macdonald who dubbed her the "billion dollar woman" — a phrase that made her a national celebrity overnight. He also invented the "price of a wife" theme that lawyers still refer to in court cases, and commissioned Spike Milligan to compose a poem for the Prince and Princess of Wales.

THERE is no need to play Monopoly to buy Fleet Street. It is up for sale next week, along with Old Bailey, London Wall, Cornhill, Fenchurch Street and others. The City's most famous street signs, some more than 50 years old, will be auctioned by Bonhams at Guildhall on Tuesday, on behalf of the Corporation of London, to help to cover the cost of putting up new signs.

Gow's reopens

GOW'S, in Old Broad Street, opens its doors again next week. Little will have changed since January 1987, when the building containing the restaurant was closed for refurbishment.

Bank managers and their clients will again be able to savour the delights of oysters rounded off with port and a cigar. Sadly, however, George Walden, who served behind the oyster bar, will not be among them. George died last year. But Tony, waiter at Gow's for more than 20 years, will be at his usual post.

Name dropping

A TUG-OF-WAR between a former Morgan Grenfell subsidiary and one of the old estate agent families is heating up. David Laurie, a bon vivant of the property world, is trying to persuade Morgan Grenfell Lantier, now independent after a management buy-in, to drop his family name from the title. There is a good reason. Laurie has revealed he is to join Fletcher King, the quoted commercial estate agent and a direct rival of MGL. Also joining is Richard Hatter, aged 27, the youngest-ever director on the board of Trafalgar House Developments.

JON ASHWORTH

STOCK MARKET

Rosehaugh asset disposals expected

SHARES in Rosehaugh, the property developer, ended 15p cheaper at 31p, having been as low as 26p, as fears grew about the lack of disposals made by this highly geared company before June 30, which is the end of its year.

Rosehaugh made a pre-tax loss of £165 million last year after writing down the value of its portfolio by £137 million. Given what has happened to

Midland Bank lost 4p to 202p after a profits downgrade by Kleinwort Benson. Kleinwort has cut its forecast from £200 million to £84 million for the current year (£11 million last time) because of concern about lower asset growth and the impact of the Gulf war on Midland's Thomas Cook.

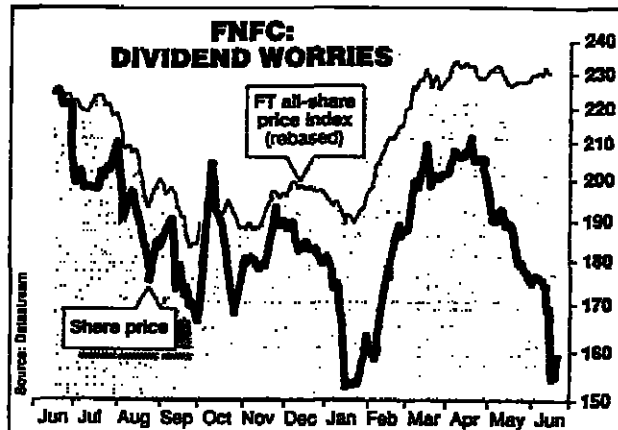
the commercial property market in the intervening 12 months, analysts were certain that Rosehaugh's valuers would be advising the board to make further significant provisions this year.

However, an announcement that is expected this morning from the company should allay some of the fears. Having sold £89 million of property in its first half, Rosehaugh says it has sold a further £60 million to date in the second half. £53 million of

which has already been received in cash. A further £40 million of agreed sales are in solicitors' hands, but may not be completed before the year end. The company is also optimistic that its long-anticipated sale of a building at Broadgate in the City, worth up to £200 million, could be agreed soon. Volume reached 1.8 million shares.

Others City office developers in the property sector fell in sympathy, with Sainsbury sliding 10p to 57p and Speyhawk 11p to 43p. MEPC lost 6p to 46p, Slough Estates 2p to 23p, Scottish Metropolitan Property 4p to 128p, Land Securities 6p to 49p and Greystar 7p to 273p. Peel Holdings added 10p to 127p, against the trend, fuelled by speculative demand and hopes that the retail property market would be the first to see a recovery.

Elsewhere, the long-awaited big rights issue finally arrived. J Sainsbury, the food stores group, is raising £489.4 million. The cash call depressed the food retailing sector, which has tapped the market for nearly £1.5 billion this year. Sainsbury lost 15p to 352p, with 7.7 million shares traded. With competition about to hot up in the supermarket sector, Tesco lost 7p to 268p, on volume of 12 million



shares. Argyl was 12p lower at 285p, on 7.3 million, and Kwik Save 12p lower at 607p. Asda, where a rights issue is feared, fell 5p to 99p. Once again, there was high turnover in Asda, with volume surging to 20 million shares.

Dealings in the Scottish power privatisations finally got under way, with healthy premiums for investors on the first day of trading.

Scottish Hydro-Electric performed best, closing at 222p on a volume of 82 million shares, while Scottish Power ended at 115p on a volume of 106 million, compared with a price of £1 for the partly paid shares.

Equities, meanwhile, had been lower all day, depressed

by the futures market. However, a firm start on Wall Street, helped to trim losses and the FT-SE 100 index ended 8 points lower at 2,516.0, having recovered from a 14.9-point deficit. The FT index of 30 shares fell 5.7 to 1,971.9. Volume reached a respectable 574.5 million shares, boosted by the Scottish power companies. Gifts reversed falls to see longs £4 ahead as traders said the terms of the £1.5 billion, 10 per cent issue, 2001, held no surprises.

The Sainsbury cash call dominated trading, although, doubts about a bid soon by Hanson for ICI also depressed market hopes of a takeover revival. ICI ended 18p lower at £12.96, while Hanson

added 34p to 216p.

Elsewhere, First National Finance Corporation, the mortgage lender and finance house, rose 5p to 161p, having lost 13p on Monday. The shares, which were trading at a high of 213p earlier this year, have declined as concern has mounted about trading conditions, with recent bearish sell notes before the company's interim results for the six months to end-April.

In January, FNFC reported a slump in pre-tax profits to £36.4 million (£71.6 million) for the year to end-October, 1990, dragged down by bad debt provisions.

Arrears and bad debts have affected the group, which is exposed to a mixture of depressed areas, including consumer credit, commercial credit and property. Analysts expect FNFC to report a first-half pre-tax loss of between £2 million and £3 million, compared with £19.1 million last time, and the overall feeling is that FNFC is unlikely to maintain the dividend, which would cost £7 million. The interim figures are due next month.

Steadley fell 13p to 347p after Kleinwort Benson downgraded its forecast.

Laporte gained 14p to 556p

after a County NatWest buy recommendation.

As the debate on Tottenham Hotspur's future continued, Manchester United shares slipped further. The shares, which suffered a 71p discount to the 385p placing price when they opened last week, lost another 3p to 286p.

A downgrading by Cazenove left George Wimpey 4p lower at 176p.

Beaverco, the USM consumer and industrial products maker, was unchanged at 35p, having added 5p on Monday. Analysts forecast pre-tax profits of £600,000 for the 15-month period to the end of this month, against a loss of £170,000 in the previous year.

The water shares, depressed by regulation worries, suffered from further warnings from Ofwat, suggesting that a price review may come earlier than expected.

BET recouped the losses it suffered after its results statement on Monday and a subsequent profits forecast downgrading by Kleinwort Benson. The business services group gained 12p to 186p.

PHILIP PANGALOS

WALL STREET

Blue chips go higher in morning dealings

New York

BLUE chips firmed in the morning after opening little changed. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 3 points to 3,001.96. The general market was flat. Bonds were slightly firmer.

Tokyo - Prices finished a lacklustre day down, continuing their consolidation after the sudden gains of late last week.

The Nikkei index was down 257.62 points, or 1.03 per cent, to 24,685.47, with 260 million shares traded compared with Monday's 220 million shares. Brokers said lack of fresh factors and the forthcoming release of Japanese money supply figures

kept most investors on the sidelines.

Frankfurt - German shares closed lower in quiet dealings following the lead set by Wall Street and Tokyo. The Dax index fell 5.63 points to 1,695.42.

Sydney - Australian shares fell from early highs to close marginally lower in scattered trading. The all-ordinaries index closed at 1,523.1, down 0.2 points.

Singapore - Another day of quiet and featureless trading saw prices falling over a broad front. The Straits Times industrial index lost 10.81 points to 1,523.27. Hong Kong was closed for a public holiday. (Reuters)

	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	Apr 30	Apr 29	Apr 28	Apr 27	Apr 26	Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21	Apr 20	Apr 19	Apr 18	Apr 17	Apr 16	Apr 15	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 27	Mar 26	Mar 25	Mar 24	Mar 23	Mar 22	Mar 21	Mar 20	Mar 19	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 15	Mar 14	Mar 13	Mar 12	Mar 11	Mar 10	Mar 9	Mar 8	Mar 7	Mar 6	Mar 5	Mar 4	Mar 3	Mar 2	Mar 1	Feb 29	Feb 28	Feb 27	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	Apr 30	Apr 29	Apr 28	Apr 27	Apr 26	Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21	Apr 20	Apr 19	Apr 18	Apr 17	Apr 16	Apr 15	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 27	Mar 26	Mar 25	Mar 24	Mar 23	Mar 22	Mar 21	Mar 20	Mar 19	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 15	Mar 14	Mar 13	Mar 12	Mar 11	Mar 10	Mar 9	Mar 8	Mar 7	Mar 6	Mar 5	Mar 4	Mar 3	Mar 2	Mar 1	Feb 29	Feb 28	Feb 27	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	Apr 30	Apr 29	Apr 28	Apr 27	Apr 26	Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21	Apr 20	Apr 19	Apr 18	Apr 17	Apr 16	Apr 15	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 27	Mar 26	Mar 25	Mar 24	Mar 23	Mar 22	Mar 21	Mar 20	Mar 19	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 15	Mar 14	Mar 13	Mar 12	Mar 11	Mar 10	Mar 9	Mar 8	Mar 7	Mar 6	Mar 5	Mar 4	Mar 3	Mar 2	Mar 1	Feb 29	Feb 28	Feb 27	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	Apr 30	Apr 29	Apr 28	Apr 27	Apr 26	Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21	Apr 20	Apr 19	Apr 18	Apr 17	Apr 16	Apr 15	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 28	Mar 27	Mar 26	Mar 25	Mar 24	Mar 23	Mar 22	Mar 21	Mar 20	Mar 19	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 16	Mar 15	Mar 14	Mar 13	Mar 12	Mar 11	Mar 10	Mar 9	Mar 8	Mar 7	Mar 6	Mar 5	Mar 4	Mar 3	Mar 2	Mar 1	Feb 29	Feb 28	Feb 27	Feb 26	Feb 25	Feb 24	Feb 23	Feb 22	Feb 21	Feb 20	Feb 19	Feb 18	Feb 17	Feb 16	Feb 15	Feb 14	Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 8	Feb 7	Feb 6	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 3	Feb 2	Feb 1	Jan 31	Jan 30	Jan 29	Jan 28	Jan 27	Jan 26	Jan 25	Jan 24	Jan 23	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 15	Jan 14	Jan 13	Jan 12	Jan 11	Jan 10	Jan 9	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Jan 3	Jan 2	Jan 1	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31
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WALL STREET
chips go higher
morning dealings

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches the daily dividend you are on a share of the daily prize money stated. If you follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Wolverhampton & D	Breweries	
2	Melrose	Property	
3	Am New Z	Banking	
4	McAlpine (Africa)	Building	
5	Alford-Lyons	Breweries	
6	Bowater	Industrial A-D	
7	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
8	Ragby Group	Building/Roads	
9	Sec Data Process	Electronics	
10	Manton Thompson	Breweries	
11	BT	Telecoms	
12	Grain Processing	Food	
13	Black & Veatch	Building/Roads	
14	Oil Search	Oil/Gas	
15	Hickson	Chemicals	
16	Swire Pacific 'A'	Industrial S-Z	
17	Hawkins Gp	Electronics	
18	Thames Water	Water	
19	QEC	Electronics	
20	Blue Circle	Building/Roads	
21	Yorkshire Water	Water	
22	Wespac	Banking/Discount	
23	Stena Water	Water	
24	Molten	Industrial L-R	
25	Cook (Wm)	Industrial A-D	
26	Maintone Elec	Electronics	
27	Seas	Drugs/Stores	
28	Costa Vignola	Drugs/Stores	
29	Cookson	Industrial A-D	
30	Butterfield	Oil/Gas	
31	Polypipe	Industrial L-R	
32	LASMO	Oil/Gas	
33	Seachem	Industrial S-Z	
34	Waco	Paper/Print/Adv	
35	Tibbet & Britten	Transport	
36	Wentworth	Industrial S-Z	
37	ACT Group	Industrial S-Z	
38	Unilever	Industrial S-Z	
39	Jardine Math	Industrial L-R	
40	Strom & Fisher	Shoes/Leather	
41	BAA	Transport	
42	Redington	Breweries	
43	Dunell	Drugs/Stores	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Trevor White, of Poole, Dorset.

BRITISH FUNDS

100001	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%
SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
100001	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100002	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100003	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100004	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100005	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100006	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100007	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100008	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100009	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100010	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100011	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100012	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100013	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100014	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100015	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100016	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100017	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100018	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100019	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100020	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100021	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100022	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100023	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100024	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100025	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100026	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100027	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100028	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100029	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100030	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100031	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100032	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100033	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100034	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100035	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100036	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100037	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100038	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100039	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100040	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100041	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100042	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100043	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100044	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100045	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100046	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100047	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100048	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100049	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100050	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100051	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100052	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100053	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100054	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100055	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100056	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100057	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100058	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100059	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100060	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100061	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100062	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100063	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100064	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100065	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100066	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100067	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100068	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100069	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100070	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100071	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100072	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100073	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100074	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100075	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100076	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
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100079	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100080	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100081	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100082	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100083	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100084	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100085	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100086	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100087	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100088	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100089	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100090	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100091	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100092	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100093	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100094	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100095	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100096	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100097	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100098	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100099	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100100	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100101	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100102	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100103	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100104	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100105	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100106	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100107	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100108	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100109	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100110	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100111	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100112	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100113	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100114	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100115	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100116	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100117	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100118	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100119	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100120	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100121	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100122	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100123	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100124	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100125	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100126	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100127	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100128	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100129	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100130	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100131	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100132	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100133	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100134	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100135	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100136	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0.50
100137	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	-0.50	-0

America plays the video game

Small video cameras make anyone a star or a cameraman. Charles Bremner reports from America on the blurring of reality and fiction

George Holliday, the manager of a plumbing equipment company, had an anonymous suburban life until March 3, the day he bought a small Japanese video camera. That night, he was trying it out on his balcony at Lake View Terrace when a group of Los Angeles policemen beat up a motorist called Rodney King in the street outside. Now, thanks to his 90 second recording of the incident, Mr Holliday is famous and potentially rich.

The dramatic footage, sold for \$500 (then £260) to the local KTLA station, was replayed thousands of times on hundreds more channels at home and abroad. "I am overwhelmed and emotional out," Mr Holliday said the other day. His lawyer, James Jordan, has set out to win the monetary gain that he believes his client "richly deserves" and has sent more than 900 letters to stations that broadcast the tape, demanding \$10,000 from each. Those which do not pay will be sued for infringement of Mr Holliday's copyright.

The elevation of Mr Holliday is one of those only-in-America tales. No other country can match the United States for turning chance into money. It echoes the experience of Abraham Zapruder, the boss of a Dallas women's wear firm, who shot the 8mm film of the assassination of President Kennedy. Zapruder eventually sold it for \$25,000 and gave the money to charity. But the Holliday tape also illustrates a phenomenon that is making a mark on American culture and is becoming noticeable in Britain and elsewhere.

The phenomenon springs from the explosion in tiny, inexpensive

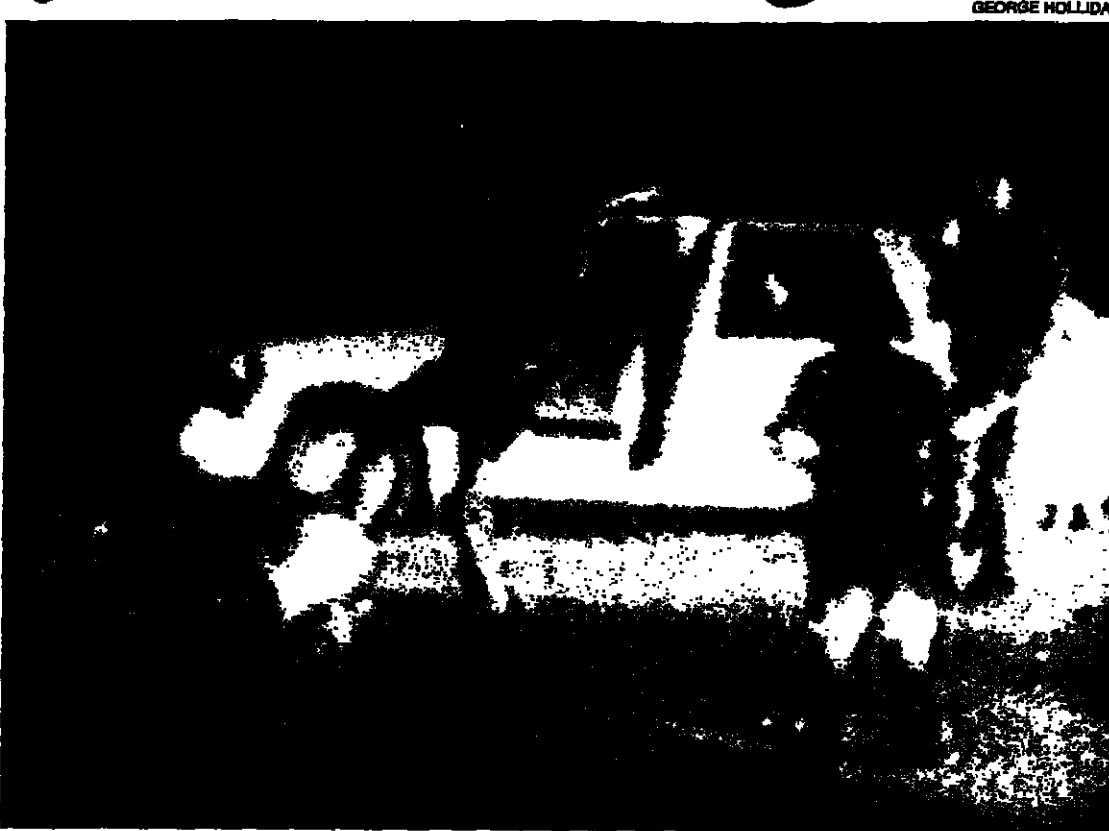
video cameras. One in seven, or 13 million, American households now owns one and the figure is accelerating. At first it appeared that the craze to document everything, from baby's gurgles to grandma's anniversary, would fade. But the ubiquity of video seems to be creating a nation of performers and, at its most extreme, creating an outlook that holds that if it is not on tape, it did not happen. The compulsion to video-validate all experience, the *Washington Post* observed last week, has "begun to eat reality".

You can find examples of video-mania everywhere. People sit with cameras glued to their eyes at every public event. In cinemas you sometimes see people filming the film on the screen. People carry video cameras with them all day in case they witness a newsworthy event. Television stations increasingly use such tapes to illustrate their news, paying \$100 to local "newshounds" for shots of car accidents or heavy storms.

Couples have restaged their wedding because the batteries failed the first time around. Thugs in Washington were jailed last month on the strength of a tape they made of themselves robbing, beating and then urinating on their victim. Ordinary couples are making and selling bedroom tapes in a fast-growing "home erotic" market.

Home tapes have also influenced broadcast television. In late 1989, America's *Funniest Home Videos* became the highest-rated programme and spawned a host of imitators, one now in Britain.

The jumpy, grainy look of the amateur video has generated a glut of "reality programming" on prime



Violence on video: a still from George Holliday's footage of police beating up a motorist in Los Angeles

time television. Cheap and melodramatic, with titles such as *Rescue 911* and *Top Cops*, these consist of following police, firemen and ambulance workers and broadcasting the violent or sleazy incidents. Critics denounce the genre for further blurring the hazy line between reality and entertainment.

Video is also colouring the justice system. Few courts will accept criminals' confessions in evidence unless they are on video and, in most states, trials are broadcast.

George Orwell would have been amused at the way in which cheap video is turning his vision of Big Brother upside down. Instead of bolstering a totalitarian state, video has become a tool for social justice. Militant groups such as Greenpeace and

ACT UP, the aggressive Aids coalition, have long used video to deter police violence at demonstrations.

Mark Crispin Miller, a media professor at Johns Hopkins university, says that "George Holliday reminds even police chiefs that the real promise of video is the promise of subversion, the promise of revealing true life". Professor Miller and others are excited by the social impact of "Little Brothers" exposing abuses of power.

But others are worried about the dangers of video-vigilantism - the tendency of freelance do-gooders and amateur prosecutors to abuse video for their own vendettas. The American Civil Liberties Union is

concerned about the threat to privacy and the danger of video entrapment. Old questions about whether the camera can lie are cropping up again. One controversial video incident took place a few months ago in Long Beach, California. A disgruntled former police officer had friends film him being shoved through a supermarket window as he was being arrested for loitering. The arresting officer argued that he had been entrapped.

Everyman's video is still too young for anyone to know how pervasive it will become, but several commentators have reached the same conclusion. As the essayist in the *Washington Post* noted: "When everything is recorded, there will be no point of view at all."

MEDIA WATCH

Seeing red

A LIBEL action against *The New Statesman and Society* on behalf of the Bruges group, its chairman, Lord Harris, and its secretary, Patrick Robertson, threatens to jeopardise the political weekly's commercial recovery, Steve Platt, the editor, has warned. A political sketch by R.W. Johnson describing the second anniversary meeting of the Bruges group was published by the *Statesman* on April 5, days before the magazine celebrated its return to the black. Writs from Peter

Carter-Ruck and Partners alleged "a most serious libel and an imputation that our client's standards are abhorrent and as low as those of the National Front". The magazine says it will defend itself, but warns that it could close as a result. "They can haul us through the courts if they wish. But in the end, even if they win, the only result will have been to secure the bankruptcy of the magazine, and to narrow the range of freedom of political expression," Mr Platt says.

Time for a recount

VIEWING figures for big television events such as Live Aid, the Nelson Mandela concert and the Eurovision Song Contest have been overrated, a study by Graham Mytton, the BBC World Service's head of international broadcasting and audience research, has found. Broadcasters have claimed that 500 million people watch the Eurovision song contest, and that one billion tuned into last year's Mandela concert. But Mr Mytton, using tried and tested World Service ratings methods (including a survey of 41 stations around the world which took either programme), found that only 64 million watched the Mandela concert and 125 million the Eurovision Song Contest. Mr Mytton was also unhappy with *The Guinness Book of Records* for reporting that 1.6 billion people watched the 1985 Live Aid concert. Mr Mytton says the broadcaster's claims devalue genuine audience measurement research.

Write stuff

A SCRIPT unit to nurture new television writing talent will be set up in Cambridge next year if Three East, the consortium challenging Anglia TV in the Channel 3 franchise auction, wins the East of England licence. The script unit would find a void left by the closure next month of the BBC script unit. Linda Agran, Three East's director of programmes, says: "Only by fostering new talent will television come up with new ideas and quality programmes." The unit would run classes for aspiring television writers, as well as an



Linda Agran

annual script competition. Three East's move has been welcomed by many writers, including Alan Bleasdale and Fay Weldon, who described the BBC's decision to close its script unit last February as "suicidal".

Daily health screening

NEWS of medical developments and research will be transmitted to the homes and offices of doctors and other medical professionals from next Monday, with 15 minute bulletins at 6.45am each weekday on the Astra satellite. The World Health Network plans to broadcast medical education worldwide by next year, though initially the bulletins will be available only in Europe. British Sky Broadcasting subscribers tuning to KTLA will be able to see the bulletins for only a few weeks before the service is encrypted and made available for a \$500 annual individual subscription or a corporate rate of £2,000.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Sex and sagging circulations

The Sunday quality papers are mimicking the tabloids in a bid to boost their sales

WHO needs the *National Enquirer*? North America's leading scandal sheet was launched in Britain last week, but its latest issue offered lean cuisine compared with the rich diet served up by our quality Sunday newspapers.

Last weekend *The Sunday Times* was relatively restrained, confining itself to the alleged homosexual past of Alistair Bell, whose wife had been murdered. However, two of its rivals were less inhibited. *The Independent on Sunday* prefers to titillate through

secondary sources. It offered a half page news feature on "date rape", using material from *Cosmopolitan*. ("Maria, 17, says, 'There was no denying that he was a great lover...'") In its *Review* section, the *IOS* drew on a New York gay periodical, *Outweek*, to report the growing US practice of exposing public figures believed to be homosexual. And, as usual,

Lynn Barber's weekly column, *Base Thoughts*, trailed through the tabloids for details such as how often the prime minister makes love. *The Observer* offered a "major four-week series" on Love, Sex and Marriage, complete with chiaroscuro photographs

of naked bodies. The paper also dredged up a four-year-old interview with Edith Cresson, the French prime minister, the highlight of which was Mme Cresson's comments on Englishmen's lack of libido. Our supposed enthusiasm

for reading about sex may have some correlation with our amatory inactivity. It is more likely a marketing device to arrest falling circulations. But as the Sunday tabloids have found, sex no longer guarantees sales.

Ian Jack, the *IOS* executive editor, denies any policy to pursue sex stories, but notes a tendency in quality Sunday papers to follow up tabloid

stories. He mentions the influence of America's *Vanity Fair*, which specialises in decadent lifestyles of the rich and famous. "That prurience has filtered into British quality Sunday newspapers."

Donald Treford, the *Observer's* editor, says the Love, Sex and Marriage series was "an interesting editorial idea. We will be following this up with things such as Roy Jenkins's memoirs. It is just part of the menu."

ANDREW LYCETT

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Mr. Stefano Lucchesi, Bristol (0272) 292032
Mr. Paul Verdeyne, West Midlands 021-643 9644
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Breaking through language barriers

British employers seem confused about how to recruit and use bilingual secretaries. But that is changing, Beryl Dixon reports

Finding a bilingual secretary job that makes full use of language skills is not easy. The adjective "bilingual" implies somebody who is competent working in a foreign language. Different employers will expect different levels of skills. One employer may want somebody fluent in several languages; another, somebody able to write in business language; a third, somebody capable of handling the occasional phone call and greeting visitors.

Whatever the extent to which your language skills will be called upon, a consistent degree of fluency is required. Even if you are making only three phone calls a month to Madrid, your spoken Spanish must be just as good as if you were making hundreds.

Many people would like the kind of job Anne Marie de Silva has. French by birth but married to an Englishman, she works for the London-based mono-lingual managing director of a company which is now French-owned.

He is learning French - and doing very well, Mrs de Silva says - but relies heavily on her to handle correspondence, take phone calls and translate from, and into, both languages.

"I would say that I work 60 per

cent of my time in English and 40 per cent in French," she says. But how did she know how much language work would be involved? "I asked for a detailed job description, but I did rely heavily on the agency I consulted to know exactly what would be required," she says.

The message is always to check the fine detail, either for yourself or, if you job hunt through an agency, through their consultants. Do not take anything for granted. A manager might stipulate "must be bilingual" because he or she does not understand the difference between bi-lingual, fluent and with good working knowledge.

Dinah Pressly, managing director of The Language Business, which found Mrs de Silva her job, says: "Some executives say bi-lingual because that is what they think they should say."

Ms Pressly says there will still be a need for bi-lingual secretaries even if all bosses decide, like Mrs de Silva, to learn another language. "There is more awareness now that executives and other employees should be able to communicate in languages other than English," she says.

"Companies are sending more managers on language courses but that does not solve the problem

totally. They still need a secretary with a far higher degree of skill and fluency than a manager can learn on a crash - largely conversational - course to provide the essential support service."

Despite increasing numbers of jobs for bilingual secretaries in London and other UK cities, secretaries often say there is more opportunity to use their languages outside Britain.

Even if part of the working day abroad is spent speaking English, they will quite likely have to speak the host-country language for most purposes outside office hours.

Sheila Burgess, who has been running the Sheila Burgess Agency for ten years, recruits secretaries to work in several European countries and divides her time between her offices in London and Paris.

"We have several clients in London currently looking for bi-lingual staff," Ms Burgess says. "They offer genuine opportunities for language work, as in the case of a French bank which is expanding its London work. One of their senior managers, who speaks very little English, is looking for a bi-lingual personal assistant (PA) who is prepared to work mainly in



French connection: Sheila Burgess has offices in Paris and London recruiting secretaries to work in several European countries

French. However, I often suggest that if secretaries really want to make use of their language training, they should consider moving abroad for a while, and capitalise on their ability in English."

Doing so means that you have to be realistic in your assessment of your language proficiency and secretarial skills. College leavers

are often eager to move abroad immediately, but would find it hard to be fluent in the deep end, learning the ropes at the same time as perfecting a language. Many recruitment consultants would counsel patience and some solid experience at home first, if possible working in Britain for a foreign company.

Ms Burgess has further advice for an ambitious secretary keen to move abroad: take a sideways step for six to 12 months.

"When recruiting a top PA, employers usually prefer candidates who are already living and working in the country, know their way around, understand the culture and lifestyle in addition to

business methods," she says. "Taking a job temporarily at a lower level than one is strictly capable of is not a retrograde step. Look on it rather as career training and development."

For further information: The Language Business (071-379 3189); The Sheila Burgess Agency (071-321 0931).

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Charming: The Old Mill House (left), at Hunton Bridge, Watford, Hertfordshire, for sale at £900,000, and the waterwheel (centre) of Felin Geri Mill, at Cwm Cw, Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed, Wales, that adjoins the farmhouse (right), priced at £280,000

Sales from the riverbank

Setting up home on the waterfront or in an old mill beside a gurgling waterwheel is the current obsession, Christopher Warman reports

Riverside views that are "stunning" have become a tired cliché in the estate agent's vocabulary, sometimes taken to an extreme when a patch of water can be seen dimly in the distance from an upstairs window.

What this shows is that a waterside property has an added attraction, compared with a similar property without it, and will lure more potential buyers. The continuing demand for such properties means they cost up to 25 per cent more than their landlocked equivalents.

A four-bedroom house overlooking Salcombe estuary in Devon, with a private beach and foreshore, brought more interest for Strutt & Parker, of Exeter, than any other property in the past three years. With joint agents

Michael Weller of Salcombe, Strutt & Parker sent out more than 600 sets of particulars and at auction this month sold the property for £300,000.

Some agents have separate waterside departments to deal with such properties. The latest to open such a department is Davis Tate of Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The department, run by David Tate, the former manager of Prudential Property Services Riverside, covers more than 50 miles of the Thames from Oxford to Marlow. There are almost 700 houses on this stretch, and they must have a river frontage, river

garden or mooring plot if they are to be handled by the department. Merely having a river view is not enough, Mr Tate says. "It is little use offering boat owners and fishermen a nice view of the river if they actually want to be on it."

Most riverside homeowners, once they are established on the river, tend to be hooked for life. They move upstream and downstream or, perhaps, to the coast, content with the changing en-

vironment, abundance of wildlife and the feeling of peace that water brings. Few people can resist a waterside. The Old Mill House at Hunton Bridge, Watford, Hertfordshire, is a 200-year-old property that originally had a working mill alongside. Its grounds of 2.5 acres have been transformed, and water now cascades from the River Gade over two waterwheels, one directing the flow under the

gatehouse and kitchen, the other going underground before reappearing elsewhere in the garden. The house was once owned by the silent screen star who became a millionaire, Pearl White. The actress, who was tied to railway lines in *The Perils of Pauline*, reputedly died of drink and left a legacy of hundreds of empty bottles in an outbuilding cellar. The Old Mill House has three reception rooms

and six bedrooms, and has a swimming-pool and a detached cottage in the grounds. Hamptons is asking £900,000.

Richard Brooks, of Lane Fox, believes water is one of the most emotive forces for a purchaser, and he particularly mentions waterside properties because they offer unusual homes and are growing in popularity. Lane Fox and Halifax Property Services, of Cardigan, are selling Felin Geri Mill at Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed, Wales, set in 32 acres in the Cwm Valley. When Michael Heycock and his partner bought the site 15 years ago, the plan was simply to restore

and bring back to life the buildings and equipment, but somehow the project grew and grew. The 16th century Grade II listed mill, with its working waterwheel, is now at the heart of a complex that has become a tourist attraction and includes a Japanese restaurant, a fishing museum and falconry displays. The 16th century miller's house has two reception rooms and three bedrooms. The agents are asking £280,000 for the house and mill.

For those who fancy a riverside house, but not the reality of the water, 16 Phillimore Place, Kensington, west London, is ideal. The nine-bedroom house was the home early this century of Kenneth Grahame, who wrote his riverbank tale, *The Wind in the Willows*, there. Chesterfield is asking £1.65 million.

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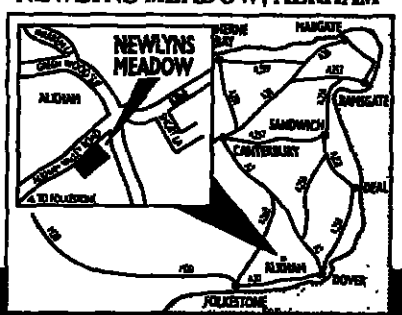
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GOLF

Stewart rewarded for his patience and perseverance

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, CHASKA, MINNESOTA

PAYNE Stewart, the new US Open champion, was concerned three months ago that he would not play golf again. He could not lift a 2lb weight with his left hand let alone swing a club.

Stewart, who beat Scott Simpson with a 75 to a 77 in the play-off on Monday here on the Hazeltine course, has been plagued by a back problem for most of his 12 years as a professional. In February, he wrenched his neck. A herniated disc pressing on a nerve root took the strength from his left triceps and caused a tingling sensation in his arm.

He opted against surgery and for a ten-week rehabilitation programme. He wore a neck brace 24 hours a day for almost six weeks. He religiously exercised under strict supervision, with the strength disparity between his left and

right arm constantly monitored.

Mike Ploski, a physical therapist, says that Stewart is extremely fortunate to be playing. He said: "There was the chance that even when Payne got strong again that when he started swinging a club the strength would not be there."

Stewart missed the Masters but returned the following week. He played well, without reaction. "I had a lot of time to think about a lot of different things," Stewart said. "I thought how fortunate I was to do the things I do. I put a different outlook on what I do for a living. I've lightened up on myself. I'm not as critical."

Stewart had won US Tour titles in 1982 and 1983 but not since. He was consumed by the desire to win. At the 1986 US Open at Shinnecock

Hills, he led Raymond Floyd, the eventual winner, with six holes to play and did not even finish second. "The next week I didn't even want to be on a golf course," he said. The key for Stewart, who will play in the Carrolls Irish Open starting tomorrow, was in realising he had to learn to live and cope with the pressure of the last nine holes. Stewart did so in 1989 when he won the US PGA Championship with four birdies in the last five holes. He did so again here where he became the first player since Jack Nicklaus in 1980 to lead or share the lead at the end of each round.

Stewart did not drop one shot at 16, 17 and 18, Hazeltine's answer to Amen Corner, in five rounds. Simpson led by two shots standing on the 16th in the third round, in the fourth round and in the play-off. In the play-off, Stewart holed from 20 feet at the 16th for his first birdie in 30 holes and Simpson dropped a shot at each of the last three.

Stewart's first act as US Open champion was to pull a trolley filled with champagne into the press tent. It seemed a touch risky considering his history of physical problems but at least the first man to win a US Open wearing plus twos since Gen Sarazen in 1932 had a new nickname. Champ Payne Stewart is his name.

BASEBALL

Winning streak ended by Orioles

By ROBERT KIRLEY

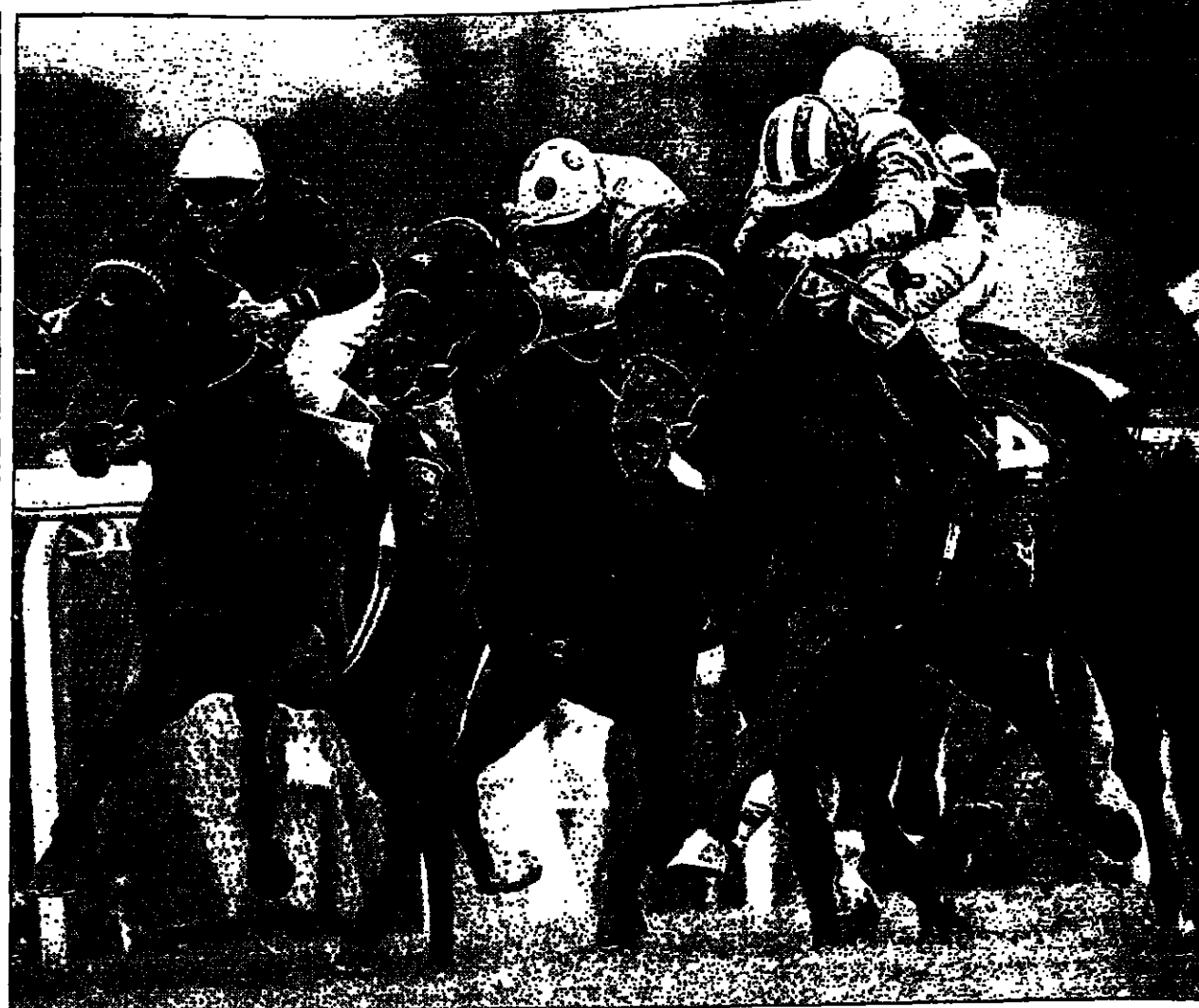
THE Baltimore Orioles have been struggling this season. Among the 26 major-league clubs, only Cleveland have a worse record. On Monday, however, the Orioles showed some gumption by beating the Minnesota Twins 6-5. The significance? The Twins had won their 15 previous games, the best streak since 1977.

The Twins lead the American League West. Chili Davis has 14 home runs, 40 runs batted in and a .301 average. Kent Hrbek has raised his average 73 points in four weeks. The best Minnesota pitcher is Scott Erickson, who has won ten decisions in a row and leads the big leagues with a 1.60 earned-run average.

Otis Nixon, of the Atlanta Braves, equaled a big-league record by leading his team to a 10-0 victory in the Expos last spring. Last week the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Los Angeles Dodgers split games in the first meeting of the National League division leaders. The Pirates won 2-1, the Dodgers 3-2 in Los Angeles.

Roger McDowell, of the Philadelphia Phillies, walked in a run in the eleventh inning to give the Expos a 4-3 win over the Phillies. The Phillies won 2-1, the Dodgers 3-2 in Los Angeles.

Dave Dravecky, a former San Diego Padres and San Francisco Giants pitcher, who has battled cancer for two-and-a-half years, had his left arm amputated at the shoulder yesterday. In 1988, doctors told him he would never play again but they persuaded surgery on his right arm. Ten months later, he touched the hearts of millions by throwing seven shutout innings in a 4-3 win over the Cincinnati Reds.



Willie Carson brings Marju wide to capture the St James's Palace Stakes by a head from Second Set, spotted cap, at Royal Ascot yesterday. Lester Piggott on Hokusa, rails, finished third, two lengths further back

Marju takes mile in his stride

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

MARJU proved himself one of the most versatile three-year-old colts of the past 20 years when coming back from finishing second to Generous in the Derby to win the St James's Palace Stakes over a mile on the opening afternoon of Royal Ascot yesterday.

"Not a bad effort by a mile-and-a-half horse," Willie Carson said. "Marju's a very high-class horse. Ten furlongs might turn out to be his best trip."

Sweeping through from last place on the final bend, the 7-4 favourite stormed into the lead two furlongs from home and dominated gamely to withstand the determined attack of Second Set by a head.

John Dunlop has excelled himself in his training of yesterday's winner. To have restored Marju to peak fitness after injuring a stifle in the 2,000 Guineas, and then to have produced him fresh for yesterday's one-mile test, represents a training feat of the highest possible order.

"We've done nothing serious with him in the 13 days since Epson," said the trainer. "I told Willie to produce him as late as possible as he tends to idle after he hits the front. As he brought him far too wide and hit the front far too soon, I thought to myself 'what a marvellous jockey Carson is'."

No plan dismissing an appeal because the stiffer it gets, the less chance the others have.

David Morley had been hoping for a deluge in the run up to the Ascot Stakes because Cabochon also relishes bottomless rain. While the showers failed to turn the Berkshire

course into a quagmire, they made it soft enough for the game four-year-old to excel.

Willie Carson felt he would win more than a mile from home and brought Cabochon with a well-timed run in the straight to beat Haiham by one-and-a-half lengths.

The win was a first at the royal meeting for Col Sir Piers Bengough, the Queen's representative at Ascot, and the Newmarket trainer.

"We've had an awful lot of seconds here but have never had a winner until today," Morley said. "Cabochon is a bad-actioned horse and if the ground is good, he is just not fast enough."

has made dramatic improvement since finishing second to Cruikshank at York.

"He's a late May foal, though we've given him plenty of time," Stoute said. He's become Lester's ride as he's put in so much work on him. He's entered in all the good races but we're going to think things over before making any firm plans."

Stoute has certainly struck form with a vengeance, his patient training skills having been in evidence earlier when Stagecraft, confidently handled by Steve Cauthen, captured the Prince of Wales's Stakes by three lengths from Zoman.

Racing clear of his rivals a furlong and a half from home, the 6-4 favourite made Zoman and Terimon look positively leaden-footed. "It was a good gallop and they gradually stepped up the pace," Cauthen said. "He went by them so quickly."

The Eclipse is a distinct possibility," said Stoute. "And he's likely to stay a mile and a half so we'd be thinking about the King George."

In search of Rafferty

By PATRICIA DAVIES

SOMEWHERE in Cornwall — that is where Ronan Rafferty is at the moment, on holiday. Lots of people want to speak to the Irishman, curious to know just why he disappeared mysteriously in the middle of the second round of the US Open championship last week, but even his managers do not know exactly where he is.

Julie White, of International

Management Group, who, with David Barlow, looks after Rafferty's affairs, was as mystified as anyone. "We haven't heard anything from Ronan, so we've no idea. We've heard the American side of things, but obviously we have to speak to Ronan before we can comment. We're trying to track him down."

Robotic view kills excitement

By HENRY KELLY

I NEVER thought I'd live to write this, but I'm seriously beginning to wonder whether it is worth the while of the BBC to bother covering the United States Open golf championship in the way it does at present.

Now before you suggest this is a childish response to the fact that no Europeans challenged seriously for this year's title, let me assure you I enjoyed such of the golf as we were able to see over the last few days, leading up to the play-off between Simpson and Stewart. That is not the point.

The point is that, if the BBC covered the tournament, we would expect and get first-class coverage. They do not cover it. The Americans cover it and Steve Rider and Peter Alliss, especially Alliss, sit there on high at the back of one green or another with the air of men unable to figure out exactly why they are where they are.

Quite frankly, and for a variety of reasons, the Ameri-

can television coverage is poor, to say the least. It does not seem to have any conscience about taking advertising breaks during the playing of the last few holes, even when these are being contested to an exciting finish by the leaders. It seems without any editorial judgment and its commentators are robotic rather than inspired.

I can appreciate that the BBC can only take what it is given. I'm wondering whether it is any longer worth taking it at all. All the BBC can do in advertisement breaks is show us pre-recorded clips: an example of daffiness on Sunday evening was showing us a pipe-opener to the day by Ian Woosnam. I'd have preferred

to watch the Belgian Open. I noticed (and, if this was for the first time, I apologise to the inventors) the technique to which I referred in the golf coverage at Woburn some weeks ago — of drawing lines on the screen to demonstrate a technical point about golf sports — being used during the coverage of the show jumping over the weekend.

This time the technique was to demonstrate to laymen the actual shape of the course the riders would jump. I must say that for night on 30 years since I first started watching show jumping on television, it has always been one of the things which totally baffled me: how do the riders know which fence to jump next? Well, the quizzically white lines showed us the route all right; but I still think you need an extra dimension to your brain to remember it. I'm glad it's not me but the ever-young David Broome and his pals who have to do the remembering.

Earlier last week, as a sort of pipe-opener to the day by Ian Woosnam, I'd have preferred

gramme went to the United States and discovered there aren't many blacks playing on the professional circuit, there aren't many black members of golf clubs and there aren't many white administrators who speak enough English to be able to look shifty when quizzed about this topic.

It was a good report and at least it had the merit of making us think a bit about the sporting stables of a whole vast community which for social and historical reasons is allowed to kick football, box, run swim and do a dozen other things but is denied access or doesn't try to enter in any great numbers the world of golf.

Mind you, I longed for the reporter to add one puncheon: allowed to kick football, box, run swim and do a dozen other things but is denied access or doesn't try to enter in any great numbers the world of golf.

House of Lords

Limit to power to order return of children

In re H (Minors) (Abduction: Custody Rights)

In re S (Minors) (Abduction: Custody Rights)

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle

[Speeches June 13]

"Removal" and "retention" of a child were mutually exclusive concepts within the meaning of article 3 of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction signed at The Hague on October 25, 1980 and incorporated in Schedule 1 to the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985.

Accordingly, removal of a child in breach of a custody order could not be followed by continuing retention and where children had been removed on dates before the coming into force of the Convention, section 2(2) of the 1985 Act could not be relied on to obtain an order for their return.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing consolidated appeals by two mothers of children wrongfully removed from the jurisdiction of their habitual

residence by their former husbands. In each case, however, the mothers had secured the return of their children by

wardship proceedings. In the H appeal, the mother, a Canadian citizen, appealed against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Sir Roger Ognor) (The Times October 8, 1990; [1991] 2 WLR 62) upholding the order of Mr Justice Anthony Lincoln dismissing her application under section 2(2) for the return of her children to Ontario. The children had been removed by the father, her former husband, in March 1986.

Canada, in relation to the Province of Ontario, had become a contracting state for purposes of the 1985 Act on August 1, 1986 by an Order in Council which made no special provision for retrospectivity.

In the S appeal, the mother, an American citizen, appealed direct from the decision of Mrs Justice Booth on August 28, 1990 who, applying In re H, had dismissed the mother's application under section 2(2) for the return to California of her

children, brought to England by her former husband in July 1987 without her consent, in breach of an order of a Californian court.

The United States had become a contracting state on July 1, 1988.

Mr James Munby, QC and Mr Henry Setright for the mothers; Mr Paul Focke, QC and Mr Edward Fitzgerald for the father in the H appeal; the father in the S appeal in person.

LORD BRANDON said that the same question arose for decision in both appeals. It was what was the meaning in the Convention of "removal" and "retention". The question comprised three points.

The first was whether removal and retention were both events which occurred once and for all on a specific occasion, or whether, while removal was such an event, retention was a state of affairs beginning on a specific occasion but continuing from day to day thereafter.

The second was whether removal or retention were mutually exclusive concepts, so that in any particular situation a child might either be removed or retained but not both, or whether removal could, and ordinarily would be, followed by continuing retention.

The third was whether removal or retention meant removal from or retention out of the care of the parent having the custody rights, or removal from or retention out of the jurisdiction of the courts of the child's place of residence.

Mr Munby had submitted that, with regard to the first point, while removal was an event which occurred once and for all on a specific occasion, retention was a continuing state of affairs, beginning on a second occasion but continuing from day to day thereafter.

With regard to the second point he had submitted that, while retention could occur without prior removal, where there was removal it would be followed by retention. The two expressions could not, therefore, be treated as mutually exclusive.

On the third point, he submitted

that removal or retention meant removal from, or retention out of the care of the parent with custody rights.

On the basis of those submissions, Mr Munby had contended that the H appeal had been a one-off occasion rather than retention; that the retention had continued from day to day after its inception; and that it had been, therefore, still in existence at all material times from the date on which the Convention had come into force as between the United Kingdom and Ontario.

His Lordship agreed that retention could and usually did continue as a continuing state of affairs. The word might, however, be used in a context in which it meant, and could only mean, an event occurring once and for all on a specific occasion.

His Lordship observed that the preamble of the Convention showed that it was aimed at the protection of children from wrongful removal or retention internationally. It was not concerned with children who had been wrongfully removed or retained within the state of their habitual residence.

With regard to the first point, a period of one year was referred to in article 12, measured from the date of the wrongful removal or retention. That showed clearly that, for the purposes of the Convention, both removal or retention were events occurring on a specific occasion, for which it was impossible to measure the period of one year from their occurrence.

Mr Munby had submitted that, in the case of retention, the period was to be measured from the date of the inception of the retention and that, if article 12 was interpreted that way, it was not inconsistent with retention being a continuing state of affairs. But that involved inserting into article 12 words which were not there and, if intended to apply, could readily have been put there.

Article 12 inevitably led to the conclusion that retention, like removal, was an event occurring on a specific occasion.

With regard to the second point, once it had been accepted

that retention was not a continuing state of affairs but an event occurring on a specific occasion, it necessarily followed that removal and retention were mutually exclusive concepts.

For the purposes of the Convention, removal occurred when a child, who had previously been in the state of his habitual residence, was taken away across the frontier of that state; whereas retention occurred where a child, who had previously been for a limited period of time outside the state of his habitual residence, was not returned to that state on the expiry of such limited period.

That being so, removal and retention were basically different concepts, so that it was impossible either for them to overlap each other or for either to follow upon the other.

With regard to the third point, removal or retention meant removal from or retention out of the care of the parent of the state of a child's habitual residence. That followed necessarily from his Lordship's preliminary observation that the Convention was concerned only with international protection for children from removal or retention, and not with removal or retention within the state of their habitual residence.

On the basis of those conclusions, the H appeal was a case in which the children had been the subject of removal rather than retention. Since it was common ground that the essential facts in the S appeal could not be distinguished, it followed that the children in that case had also been the subject of removal rather than retention.

With regard to the second point, the wrongful removals had taken place before the Convention had come into force between the United Kingdom and either Ontario or the United States of America, so that, by reason of section 2(2), the court had no jurisdiction in either case to make an order for the return of the children under the Act.

Lord Bridge, Lord Griffiths, Lord Oliver and Lord Jauncey agreed.

Solicitors: Ralph Haring & Co; E. Edwards Son & Noice, Grays.

Law Report June 19 1991

Chancery Division

Barristers' clerk not holder of an office

McMenamin (Inspector of Taxes) v Diggle

Before Mr Justice Scott

[Judgment June 7]

A self-employed senior barristers' clerk was not, liable to member of professional chambers must have the services of the clerk of the chambers.

The Revenue had argued that, accordingly, the rules envisaged there being an office of clerk of chambers.

In *Edwards (Inspector of Taxes) v Clench* ([1982] AC 845, 861) Lord Wilberforce had stated that "office" must involve a degree of continuance (not necessarily continuity) and of independent existence; it must connote a post to which a person can be appointed, which he can vacate and to which a successor can be appointed."

In the instant case, counsel had referred to various features which an office might be expected to have. Mr Oliver had said that one feature would generally be an instrument creating and defining the office in question, although he accepted that it was not an essential requirement.

Then there was the importance of some degree of public element, although, again, it was accepted that it would be possible to have an office for Schedule E purposes not associated with any public element.

Another feature was the manner in which the individual came to hold the alleged office, although it would be going too far to say that in the absence of some formal appointment there could not be an office.

The commissioners had referred to *dica* of Lord Lowry in *Edwards v Clench* (at p870): "To be in a position of authority is not necessarily to hold an office, and when you appoint somebody to do something you do not thereby appoint him to be something (in other words to hold an office), unless the Act or other relevant instrument says so."

An office was something more than a job description. As the

son, in the event, he had filled the post himself.

The Rules of Professional Conduct for the Bar of England and Wales in force at the time (3rd edition 1985) included a rule that "a barrister who is a member of professional chambers must have the services of the clerk of the chambers."

The Revenue had argued that, accordingly, the rules envisaged there being an office of clerk of chambers.

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An office was something more than a job description. As the

commissioners had said: "Mr Diggle's function has been at all times to perform the duties of senior clerk to members of the chambers. Those are important duties but we find it impossible to say that when he took them on he was appointed to a post which can be classified as an office for the purposes of Schedule E."

The commissioners had referred to the main cases, cited the tests and it was difficult to conclude that they had misdirected themselves in law.

If that was right, then the only remaining attack was on *Edwards v Bairstow* principles ([1956] AC 14, 36), that the facts did not permit a sensible tribunal to come to the conclusion that Mr Diggle did not hold an office.

That would be difficult. There was no obvious constituent instrument. The best that could be found was the rule in the Bar Code of Conduct, but that was not precise as to the requirements. There was little in the way of a public element; and, particularly striking, there was the absence of anything that could be regarded as an appointment.

The 1985 agreement had not itself appointed Mr Diggle as head clerk. It had been his own decision to fill that role as the most convenient way to fulfil his contractual obligation under the agreement to provide full clerical services.

Whether or not it was possible for barristers' chambers to constitute some individual holder of the office of senior clerk, his Lordship was not satisfied that it was not possible, the special commissioners' conclusion in the present case that that had not happened was one which it was open to them, on the evidence before them, to come to.

Their decision was therefore not vulnerable to attack on *Edwards v Bairstow* lines.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Bullock, Worthington & Jackson, Manchester.

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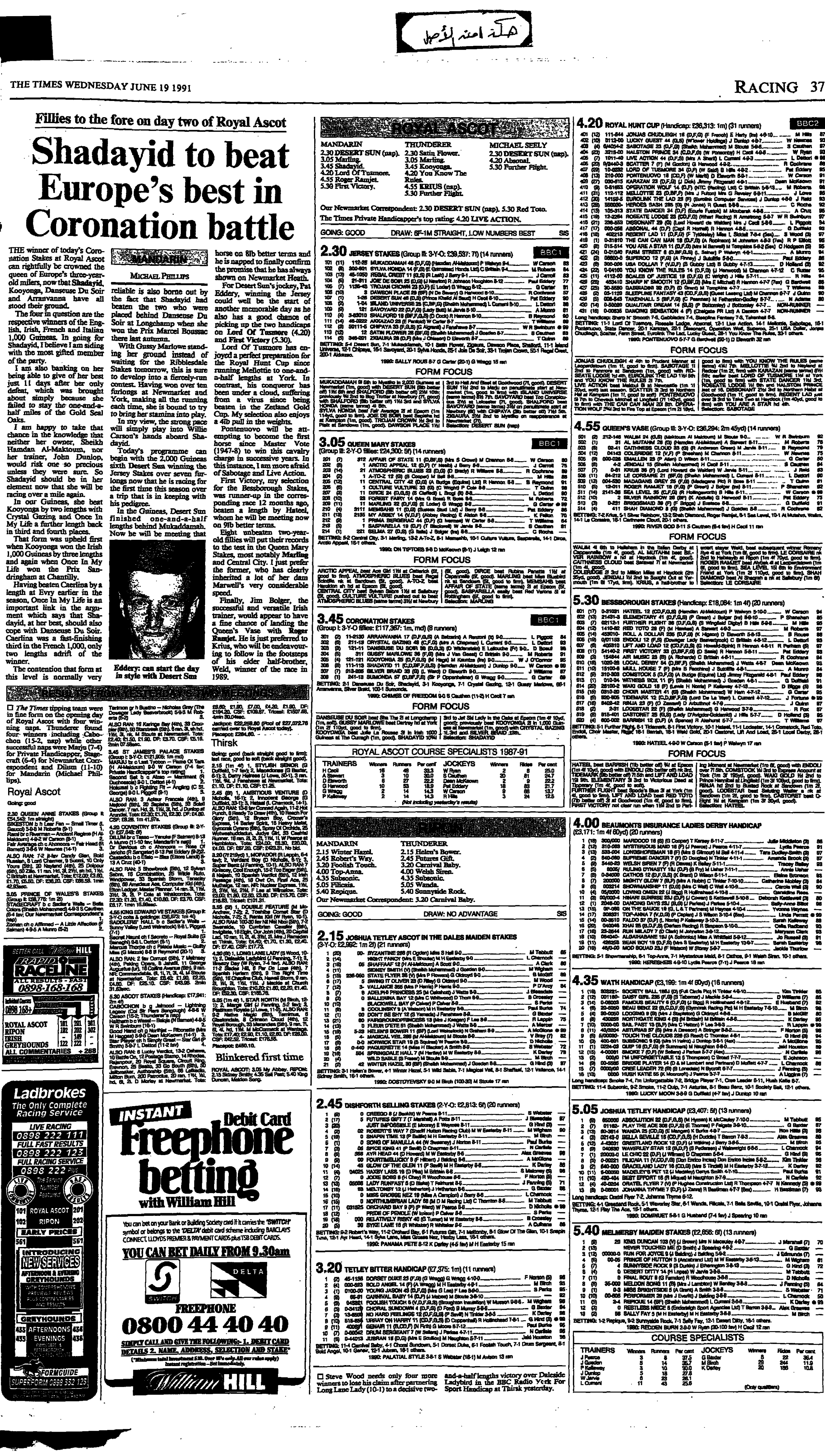
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World's No. 2 tennis player calls for changes

Becker worried by increasing commercialism

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

ONE more voice has joined the chorus of criticism for the "obscene" amount of money in tennis. Last week, Philippe Chatrier, the outgoing president of the International Tennis Federation, warned that tennis could be choked by the dollar; yesterday, six days before the start of the Wimbledon championships, Boris Becker, the world No. 2, said that the game was in danger of destroying itself.

"Tennis is going in the wrong direction and one day it is going to fall completely," Becker said. "The money is now so great that one day it has to stop and I would not be disappointed if it did. It's obscene. I would rather have played in the days when you played a tennis match and then you showered and went home. I will never come to terms with the commercial side of the game."

"One of the problems is the increase in the number of journalists and television stations every year. But with them the money comes."

With a fortune estimated at

£30 million already in the bank at the age of 23, Becker can perhaps afford to take those hard-line views. But, in recent years, he has distanced himself markedly from the commercial pressures, which engulfed him when he first won Wimbledon at the age of 17, and has ended several lucrative contracts. At present, he is more concerned about the way forward. "I already have a few pounds, but I am talking about the whole picture of the game."

Becker's picture of tennis in the future includes a slimmed-down tour based on the grand slams. "The grand slams and the Davis Cup are the most important tournaments. I do not agree with so many little tournaments which have a million dollars in prize money and so many computer points."

"Look at how young the players are nowadays. At 23 I was the youngest of the four semi-finalists at the French Open. It used to be that players started at 21 and played until 30, now they start at 17 — I'm a good example —

and then you don't have any energy or they have enough money and they retire. With the system right now they can do that."

"But if you have a smaller circuit with fewer big tournaments, a Borg wouldn't stop at 25, nor John McEnroe, who stopped for a time. Stefan and myself are almost the oldest players and we are 23 and 25 years old. That is wrong."

Becker himself says that his motivation now comes more from records than money. "The longer I play, the more I would like to leave a strong mark on the game. Bjorn Borg's record of five Wimbledon is one I think about as I become more interested in the history of the game and the performances of the great champions."

Although Becker's preparations for regaining his Wimbledon title have been hampered by the weather, he says he feels more relaxed and happy than at any time in his career.

Wimbledon prepares, page 39

Yugoslav recovers his power

SLOBODAN Zivojinovic, the 27-year-old Yugoslavian who lost a five-set Wimbledon semi-final against Ivan Lendl in 1987, could yet emerge as a dangerous floater in this year's championships.

Zivojinovic, whose ranking has slumped from 19 in 1987 to 189, won his first-round Wimbledon qualifying match at Roehampton yesterday.

The 6ft 6in Yugoslav defeated Bernd Karbacher, of Germany, 6-2 6-3, with a familiar display of powerful serving and needs two more wins to make the main draw.

Among the British players, only Valda Lake has a chance of qualifying. Lake, from Devon, won her second-round match against Stacey Schefflin, of the United States, 7-5, 6-2. Lake, ranked 133 places below her opponent, rallied from 5-2 down in the first set.

Results, page 39

Edberg facing a top-heavy draw

By ANDREW LONGMORE

FOUR Wimbledon champions, sharing eight titles, are in the top quarter of the draw for the men's singles of the Championships, made yesterday.

At the head of the list is Stefan Edberg, the top seed and the defending champion, but below him come the three times champion John McEnroe, who could meet the Swede in the fourth round; Jimmy Connors, twice champion who needs to reach the second round to become the first man to play 100 singles at Wimbledon; and Pat Cash, the 1987 champion.

As if that was not danger enough, Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic are in the same 16, which includes three British players, Andrew Castle, Nick Brown and Chris Wilkinson. Should he survive to the semi-final, Edberg could exact revenge on the new French Open champion, Jim Courier, for his defeat in the

quarter-final in Paris.

The consolation for Edberg, who begins his defence on Monday against the big-serving but erratic Marc Rosset, are first that only one of Cash, Ivanisevic and Sampras can emerge in the quarter-finals and, second, that if he is worried about them, they will be twice as worried about him.

But Edberg might cast a wistful glance at Boris Becker, who should enjoy a relatively trouble-free ride through the early rounds. Becker meets his Davis Cup colleague Carl-Uwe Steeb in the first round. Ivan Lendl, very short of match practice, has David Wheaton and Malivai Washington, two Americans in good form at Queens, uncomfortably close in the bottom half of the draw. He faces a potential quarter-final with Andre Agassi, according to seedings at least, and the imposing figure of Becker in the semi-final.

Another dark-haired left-hander will confront Agassi on his second visit to Wimbledon. Last time, in 1987, it was Henri Leconte of France, this time it is Grant Connell of Canada. Agassi won five games against Leconte. He should do better this time.

Monica Seles, the youngest and one of the more surprising No. 1 women's seeds on record, opens her challenge against Sabine Appelmans, of Belgium. Steffi Graf takes on Monique Javer, one of three British women to be playing seeds, while Martina Navratilova, seething at being seeded fourth, plays Elena Reinach, of South Africa. On seeding, the semi-finals will be Seles v Sabatini and Graf v Navratilova.

Emilio Sanchez, who prepared for Wimbledon by playing for Europe against the Rest of the World in the Mizuno Cup at the Roehampton tennis club on Friday and Saturday.

Wimbledon build-up, page 39



Calm before the race: Krabbe relaxes before the Dairy Crest international match at Crystal Palace tonight

Death threat disturbs Krabbe

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN her press conference was over yesterday, Katrin Krabbe went out for a walk round Croydon, presumably to spend some of the £120,000 she will earn this year from her various sponsorship deals. On her last visit to Britain, she was confined to hotel and track. Straying was verboten under the East German system.

Now there is one German and, soon after checking-in for tonight's Dairy Crest international against Britain at Crystal Palace, Krabbe was brought before

the media. She was asked about life as the East's first symbol of athletics capitalism, but life was a sensitive word.

Last weekend Krabbe discovered that being European 100 and 200 metres champion, with looks which must tempt starters to hold the 'set' position, was not all medal presentations, photographic sessions and longing for the days when you can go to the cinema without being noticed. Where there are goddesses, there are cranks and Krabbe had just received her first death threat. It had, she confessed, af-

fected her form. Her 11.37sec 100 metres in Dijon at the weekend was half a second slower than in her European triumph. "I can't remember a step of the race because of the worry," she said. Aged 21, her earnings come from many sources: a deal with a cosmetics company and one with a fashion house; on Friday she opens her own sports shop. She understands that appearance is as important as performance.

Krabbe may be nice to look at, but Steve Backley should be better to watch tonight. In his first javelin

competition of the season, we may see him reclaim his world record. The subject of controversial javelins is with us again.

Last summer, Backley set a world record then lost it to Jan Zelezny and his new Nemeth model. When Backley tried a Nemeth he regained the record but yet another controversial javelin was picked up by Seppo Raty at the start of this season. Now the record stands at 96.96 metres. Tonight, for the first time in competition, Backley will try the new Sandvik model that Raty used.

Mixed reaction likely to FA plan

By CLIVE WHITE

NOT before time, the Football Association will today reveal all the contents of its controversial *Blueprint for the Future of Football*, and the game at large can discover the magnitude of its implications.

The FA stresses that its far-reaching proposals, contained in the 115-page document, are for the good of the game in general: others, including the vast majority of Football League clubs who could suffer fearfully from the redistribution of wealth recommended in the report, will see it as being very good for the chosen few.

It will also be very good for the FA if, with a favourable ruling from the High Court in its action against the League, it is granted the power to operate its breakaway premier league from the 1992-93 season. It would mean that the FA had wrested control of the English game at club level.

"The FA must do what it is constitutionally required to do, and that is govern, hopefully with both prudence and wisdom," Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, said. "There is no doubt that bringing the major properties of the premier league, the FA Challenge Cup and the England team under the authority of the Football Association will maximise the commercial monies available to football at all levels."

Those League clubs not invited to join the "elite" the season after next, however, may find precious little evidence in the report of how commercial monies will be maximised for their benefit, even if the premier clubs' income will be quadrupled, as has been suggested.

The hope and ambition that springs eternal in every small club that one day they might share in the fame and riches enjoyed by the country's leading clubs will be drastically reduced in the advent of a premier league. It is understood that after the number has been whittled down over the course of four seasons from 22 to 18, automatic promotion and relegation between the premier league and Football League will consist of only one up, one down and the promotion place will depend upon the club meeting demanding criteria on its stadium.

Much, though, of what is likely to be contained in the blueprint, such as greater assistance in the preparation of the England senior team and a bigger say for supporters in the running of the game, ought to be welcomed by all parties.

Macari joins Stoke, page 39

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Stockton alerts old guard

From MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, CHASKA, MINNESOTA

DAVE Stockton, the United States captain, has informed both Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus that he would like them to keep their golf swings well oiled for the Ryder Cup match at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, from September 27 to 29.

Stockton is determined to keep open all options, which is why he has alerted both Watson and Nicklaus as an indication of concern about the composition of his team.

He has gone on record as saying that there are players making the team whom he might prefer not to have, although he does not want to say who he does want. Ray-

mond Floyd and Curtis Strange, like Watson and Nicklaus, possess the experience but so far they have not qualified.

Stockton, a formidable opponent as a player, said: "I don't care what anybody's swing looks like. I want to know how big a heart is in his chest. We need guys with faith in their games who are shot makers."

Stockton appears intent on using the two picks he has — ten players automatically qualify following the US PGA Championship in August — to magnify the intimidatory countenance of his team.

"I do have a hard time

visualising a team without Curtis," Stockton said. "And if Raymond Floyd had taken the shots at the 18th hole at The Belfry then America's hands would now be on the Ryder Cup."

UNITED STATES RYDER CUP POSITIONS: 1. P. Stewart, 545,250; 2. F. Couples, 531,250; 3. L. Wadkins, 525,150; 4. H. Irwin, 517,500; 5. P. Asinger, 501,250; 6. C. Peavy, 495,500; 7. M. Calcutt, 485,000; 8. W. Lutz, 467,500; 9. T. Simpson, 381,250; 10. T. Kline, 367,142; 11. S. Pate, 363,750; 12. M. O'Meara, 350,417; 13. G. Mager, 313,750; 14. C. Beck, 294,643; 15. D. Lowe, 291,250; 16. S. Hoch, 278,084; 17. M. Brooks, 272,500; 18. L. Miles, 264,429; 19. C. Shuler, 257,142; 20. R. Floyd, 235,000; 21. J. Cook, 225,933; 22. S. Simpson, 224,167; 23. C. Stricker, 218,197; 24. B. Tway, 217,084; 25. B. Greenhaw, 208,750. Selected others: 26. T. Stewart, 191,532; 27. J. Nicklaus, 77,500.

Stewart's reward, page 36

Lord's takes £1.7m in Test bookings

LORD'S has taken a record £1.7 million in advance sales for the second Test match, which starts tomorrow.

All tickets have been sold for the first three days and about 1,000 are available for Sunday, but, as usual, tickets for the fifth day have not been sold in advance. Capacity has been increased to 28,000 with the opening this season of the Compton and Edrich stands.

West Indies seem resigned to going into the match without their fastest bowler, Patrick Patterson. He took no part in practice at Lord's yesterday after straining his right calf muscle at Northampton on Monday.

Lance Gibbs, the tour manager, said: "It is the sort of injury which quite possibly could keep him out of the Test. We'll know tomorrow."

Meanwhile, England's quickest bowler, Devon Malcolm, was put through his third private practice in four days. He spent an hour bowling at Lord's in front of Mickey Stewart, the team manager, before joining with the rest of the team.

"I'm pleased with the way today's session went," Stewart said. "What benefit we get out of it will be measured by what he does in the middle."

Gower's eclipse, page 38

Piggott's magic dispels the Royal Ascot gloom

By RICHARD EVANS

LESTER Piggott lifted the gloom of the recession and the weather on the first day of Royal Ascot with a masterly display of riding which left a reduced crowd in raptures.

Top hats were raised in salute from the stands and the old maestro was cheered as he returned to the winner's enclosure following a vintage performance on Saddlers' Hall in the King Edward VII Stakes.

The Michael Stoute-trained colt provided the 55-year-old jockey with his 114th winner at the royal meeting. Piggott was just 16 when he guided Malka's Boy to victory in the Wokingham Stakes in 1952.

Apart from 1954, when he was given a controversial six-month suspension after finish-

ing first in the corresponding race, he rode winners at every royal meeting until he retired from the saddle in 1985 and was leading jockey on 18 occasions.

During a brief career as a trainer he saw Cutting Blade win the Coventry Stakes, but yesterday's triumph must have eclipsed that achievement following his return to race-riding last autumn.

Piggott, who has experienced the lows of life as well as the joys of success, is a mellow, more thoughtful man today.

After gently chiding himself for not riding Saddlers' Hall close enough to the pace when he was second at York last month, he reflected on the delight of yesterday's win. "It was terrific, it was marvellous

really. I have ridden Saddlers' Hall all the year. He is a very nice horse but he has taken a long time to show what he can do."

The joy of witnessing



Piggott: masterly ride

Piggott at his very best was in sharp contrast to the general scene at Ascot. Sadly, the austerity Derby has been followed by the ghost of Royal Ascot.

The band of the Blues and Royals played, the Queen and members of the royal family arrived by carriage as normal and the racing was superb. But yesterday was Royal Ascot only in name.

Attendance figures told only half the tale. Down by 14 per cent from 48,949 to 42,076, the Berkshire venue felt strangely empty.

The Mill Reef bar, normally packed early in the afternoon, resembled an empty restaurant shortly after opening time an hour before racing began.

Lord Harrington, senior

steward of the Jockey Club, acknowledged that the recession was to blame. "There is no shadow of doubt the crowds are smaller, but you must remember it has come down from a very high. People may come for two days instead of four."

On an even sadder note, Bill Thorpe, a former jockey's valet, collapsed and died after travelling down to Ascot with Dean McKewen from his home in Pontefract.

While the rain and economy did not help Royal Ascot's cause, the quality and style of racing was sufficient to satisfy purists and punters. Three winning favourites on an opening day is a rare event and the old enemy in the shape of the bookmakers came off worst in the initial ex-

changes. Michael Stoute left his sickbed to score a notable double with Saddlers' Hall and Stagecraft, who won the Prince of Wales's Stakes in the style of a top-class racehorse.

Willie Carson was also in double form with a 23-1 strike on Cabochon and Marju, who displayed a rare versatility by coming back from the Derby trip to win over a mile in the group one St James's Palace Stakes.

The day belonged, however, to one man. Lester Piggott's personal fairytale brings happiness to everyone. Let us hope there is no end in sight.

Marju triumphs, page 36
